

Straight talking 'right to the end' revealed as Reagan sees Thatcher

Summit was 'toe to toe' confrontation

● President Reagan arrived in London to brief Mrs Thatcher on his summit with Mr Gorbachev
● Mrs Thatcher paid lavish tribute at No 10 to the President's success at the Moscow talks

● It has emerged that there was more personal confrontation between the superpower leaders than thought
● Mr George Shultz told Nato allies in Brussels that he saluted the leaders' summit work (page 8)

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

As President Reagan last night briefed Mrs Margaret Thatcher on his summit with Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, information emerged showing that meetings between the two leaders had been far more forthright and outspoken.

Details of the Moscow talks, which emerged only after Mr Reagan boarded his plane for London, disclosed that there was much more personal confrontation in their fourth summit than the overall cordiality had hitherto suggested.

Mr Howard Baker, White

House Chief of Staff, told journalists travelling on Air Force One to London, that the two leaders "stood toe to toe" in strong discussions during the summit.

During their last meeting just before he left the Kremlin, they continued making points forcefully to each other right up to the final moment.

They were face to face and going at it pretty strong until the end, Mr Baker said.

But Whitehall sources said last night that this should be seen as a sign of healthy dialogue, not as a destructive clash. It showed that the superpowers were beginning to talk to each other in the same direct terms that are routinely used among leaders within the Western alliance.

Mr Baker made a similar point by saying that the "body language" of the two leaders showed that they understood each other well. "They speak very freely and they speak very frankly".

When the two men said during the summit that they needed to "bang the table" to clear obstacles, they were describing metaphorically the actual style of their talks, it became clear yesterday.

President Reagan's decision to fly direct from Moscow to London was seen in Whitehall as a deliberate gesture to underline the continuing strength of the Anglo-American relationship.

But the risk of upsetting other allies was offset by holding a separate briefing for ministers in Brussels from all 16 Nato countries. Britain was represented by Mr David Mellor, Minister of State at the Foreign Office.

Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, later flew to London. He and Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, joined Mrs Thatcher and President Reagan at the Downing Street talks.

Earlier, the President and Mrs Nancy Reagan had tea with the Queen at Buckingham Palace.

The Prime Minister was known to be keen to use the President's visit — the nineteenth meeting of the two leaders — to honour Britain's closest ally and underline the success of her eight-year relationship with the President.

She met him at the Foreign Office, where a guard of honour of the Welsh Guards was drawn up in the quad-

range for his inspection. She later escorted him to their talks at No 10.

The visit, which continues today, is almost certainly the last before Mr Reagan leaves office in January.

A controversy over remarks made by Mr Reagan in Moscow about Soviet bureaucracy failed to die down yesterday. Sources representing Soviet refuseniks and Jews, who wish to emigrate, felt that the President had weakened their case by suggesting that their difficulties stemmed more from inefficient Soviet bureaucracy than from Kremlin policy.

But neither Mr Reagan nor Mr Baker showed any sign of retreating from the President's repeated position.

"The President was saying that *Glasnost* and *Perestroika* (openness and restructuring), that bureaucracy is the last (thing) to change", Mr Baker said.

"There is inertia there and many of the repressive actions that have been brought to our attention have more to do with (it) than (with) the announced intention of the Soviet leadership."

The President was asked if his views had changed when he arrived at Winfield House, in Regent's Park, the American Ambassador's residence, where he was spending the night.

He said: "I was trying to put out that sometimes (emigration) cases ... do not get that far up the ladder."

It also became last night that hopes for cuts in superpower conventional forces in Europe may not have been harmed after all by President Reagan's refusal to accept a proposal made by Mr Gorbachev.



Mrs Margaret Thatcher greeting President Reagan at Downing Street yesterday (Photograph: John Rogers).

New interest rate rise imminent as sterling policy is attacked

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The Government's management of the pound over the past two months came under fire from the City and industry last night after a half-point rise in bank base rates failed to stop sterling from falling. A further rise in interest rates looked inevitable, possibly as early as today.

Dealers blamed the dispute between the Prime Minister and the Chancellor for undermining confidence in the Government's ability to control sterling.

Mr Andrew Smith, economist at CL-Alexanders Laing & Cruickshank, the broker, said: "Clearly the foreign exchange markets are deciding policy and the Chancellor is not in control."

The pound slumped by 2.6 cents to \$1.7980 and dropped even more on the key German mark rate, plunging by 4.3 pfennigs to DM3.1069. Later,

in New York, the pound was quoted below DM3.10, despite the expectation that another increase in base rates is imminent.

Stock market investors were uncertain how to react, fearful of still more base rate rises but happier with the pound at a lower level. The FT-SE 100 index closed a modest 4.6 points up at 1,810.3.

Yesterday's rise in base rates led by the Bank of England, from 7.5 to 8 per cent, reversed the half-point cut on May 17, and was the first increase in rates since early February. In the interim period there have been three half-point rate reductions.

The Bank signalled to high street banks to raise rates after the pound's fall, which started on Tuesday, gathered pace. Since rising to almost DM3.20 on Monday in Frankfurt, the

The increase in base rates will not lead to an increase in mortgage rates, but it rules out the rate cuts some societies were considering 5 per cent.

Mr Jim Birrell, of the Halifax Building Society, said: "The new base rate does not point to an increase in the mortgage rate". The Halifax's mortgage rate, 9.8 per cent, was set when base rates were 8.5 per cent.

The pound has fallen by nearly 3 per cent in three days.

The CBI, angered both by the earlier uncapping of sterling and yesterday's apparent attempt to prevent it from falling against the mark, issued a strongly worded statement.

"This is a move in the wrong direction", the CBI said. "Current exchange rate policy is damaging the pros-

pects for manufacturing investment and exports.

"Today's move does nothing to reassure companies of the Government's commitment to exchange rate stability, or to bring UK interest rates into line with our competitors."

Opposition spokesmen plan a vigorous attack when MPs return to Westminster.

Mr John Smith, the shadow Chancellor, said: "There seems to be considerable confusion about monetary policy. The Government has been caught in a dilemma of its own devising."

Analysts said that the uncertainty over the pound had been fuelled by the public dispute between Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, which began early in March.

Details, page 25
Comment, page 27

Britain continues Wright battle

By Robin Oakley, Michael Evans and Francis Gibb

The Government is to press on with its appeal in the House of Lords later this month to stop publication of extracts from *Spycatcher* in British newspapers, despite the unanimous decision in the Canberra High Court yesterday approving the sale in Australia of the controversial book by Mr Peter Wright, the former MI5 officer.

The final defeat for the British Government in Australia also made it more likely that Mrs Thatcher will intensify her efforts to find ways of penalizing former members of MI5 and MI6 who might be tempted to follow Mr Wright's example.

One option under consideration is the drawing-up of a new contract which would make it clear that anyone guilty of a serious breach of confidentiality would forfeit his pension rights. But senior Whitehall sources yesterday indicated that legislation to draw up a new contract was a long way off.

The sources said that various options were "still being kicked around". The moves to tighten the contracts of current members of the intelligence services are being handled at Number 10, with advice from the Attorney General's office.

There are genuine fears that Mr Wright's success in Australia could encourage other past members of MI5 or MI6 to try to publish their memoirs, although restrictions on publication in this country would remain as strong as ever.

There is also the possibility that Mr Wright might be tempted to write a sequel to *Spycatcher*, drawing on secret information which he has so far kept to himself.

One area of his past MI5 work that was not included in *Spycatcher* was the time he spent in Northern Ireland. Any details of MI5 operations in the province could be deeply embarrassing to the Government.

Its last chance to stop further disclosure of Mr Wright's *Spycatcher* allegations in this country hangs on the House of Lords hearing which begins on June 13 and is expected to last seven days.

Five law lords, headed by Lord Keith of Kinkel and including Lord Griffiths, the chairman of the Security Commission, will hear the Government's appeal against a High Court ruling that *The Sunday Times* and other newspapers should be allowed

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TOMORROW



The Times Property Guide

Tomorrow, in full colour, the 20-page Times Property Guide explains why the English are buying Edinburgh and why the semi is back in fashion.

WIN £58,000

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● Two winners shared the £4,000 daily prize yesterday (see page 3). So the Portfolio Accumulator Fund stands at £58,000. Prices, page 29

IN PART ②

Brokers' club

A report on the Hong Kong stock exchange made in the wake of the October crash criticizes it as "an insiders' club". Pages 25, 26

Football deal

The Football League proposes that ITV and BBC should screen highlights of the entire first division programme on Saturdays. Page 44

TIMES FOCUS

The development of materials science, for use in rockets to robots, is essential for Britain's future, but more graduates are needed. A Special Report. Pages 31, 33

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Government is satisfied with Moscow results

By Robin Oakley

At their talks in the Cabinet room at 10 Downing Street last night, and over dinner in the Pillar Room, Mrs Thatcher paid lavish tribute to President Reagan's success in Moscow.

The Prime Minister believes the summit went well and she is thought to be unconcerned about the lack of an early agreement on strategic arms reduction talks (Start).

The Prime Minister takes the view that it is better to have a sound agreement than a rushed one.

She is understood to feel that there was a better at-

mosphere at the Moscow summit than on previous meetings between President Reagan and Mr Gorbachev.

As Mr Reagan entered Downing Street last night, a reporter shouted at him that Mr Gorbachev had said progress was too slow on arms negotiations and asked him what he was going to do about it.

The President called back: "I would like to speed them up."

Asked if he believed that Mr Gorbachev was trying to "pull a PR gambit on you", Mr Reagan merely shrugged before entering No 10.

Writing may be on the wall for 'scruffy' teachers

Sarah Thompson
Education Correspondent

Lazy, clock-watching and "scruffy" teachers should be dismissed, the general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers said yesterday.

Mr David Hart said thousands of teachers "neither look like, nor act like professionals, and ... ought to be removed from the profession with all due speed".

He said the new competitive environment brought about by the Education Reform Bill would "expose the one or two teachers in every school who are not pulling their weight and who everyone in the staff room knows about and resents". Governors of schools managing

their own budgets would be more likely than before to press for the removal of weak staff members.

Of the 400,000-strong national teaching force, thousands were not pulling their weight. The new contracts should make it easier to dismiss them, he said.

He told the association's annual conference in Eastbourne that a number of teachers needed to "raise their horizons and improve their own professional performance". Many had a "fear of change", mostly of the prospect of formal appraisal systems.

He also criticized the "low expectations" many teachers had for pupils. "The tendency for some teachers to label pupils from the day they enter school at primary or secondary level is worrying because it leads to an

unjustified assumption of poor attainment levels by pupils who come from socially deprived areas."

Later, he said that no teacher should go to school wearing jeans. Parents always judged schools by the appearance of staff.

"I am not saying that all teachers should wear suits, but they at least should look like professionals. Persistently scruffy teachers should be disciplined."

Last year, the Government imposed a contract on teachers that stipulated a minimum workload of 1,265 hours a year.

"Schools are still undoubtedly suffering from the attitude of some teachers who won't participate in extra curricular activities. I am not so concerned about voluntary activities

as about those teachers who are content to come in at 9.10, leave at 3.30, and do the bare minimum", Mr Hart said.

He appealed to local education authorities and head teachers to act more quickly to dismiss such staff.

The National Union of Teachers reacted angrily to Mr Hart's remarks yesterday.

"Dress is a subjective matter, but our view is that the vast majority of men and women who teach in schools are smartly turned-out and presentable", the union said.

"They are also working on average 35 per cent more than they did a year ago, particularly those who have had responsibility for GCSE. Teachers need adequate resources to be able to do their jobs better."

Continued on page 24, col 7



Climber Steven Venables: success against the odds

First Briton scales Everest without oxygen New Coronation Day triumph

By Boris Johnson

The news that a young Londoner has become the first Briton to ascend Mount Everest without oxygen was flashed to Buckingham Palace yesterday, exactly 35 years after the Queen was told of Sir Edmund Hillary's historic climb on the day she was crowned.

Mr Steven Venables succeeded in climbing the 29,028ft mountain against all the odds: the four-man expedition was plagued by blizzards, frostbite, strikes by yak drivers, and had to go without food for five days on the descent from the summit.

Speaking from Nepal, Mr Venables said that he was delighted that the news had been broken on Coronation Day. "I knew that Hillary had climbed it on the 29th of May, but I had forgotten that it was announced today."

Of the three climbers attacking the summit on the commercially sponsored ex-

pedition, Mr Venables was the only one to reach the top. "It was late in the afternoon and the clouds were closing in. I was climbing a tiny bit faster than my companions, two Americans, Robert Anderson, the leader, and Ed Webster. I decided to go on alone for the last 500ft."

"It was extremely cold. I

couldn't see much when I got to the top because there was quite a lot of cloud, but I could just see some of the other ridges."

"On the way down it began to get dark at around 28,000ft and I could not find the route. I was forced to sleep out on the mountain in about minus 20C. Luckily I had on five layers of clothing, but I have got frostbite in all of the toes of my left foot and I might have to lose bits of some of them."

"My companions had found a tent to spend the night in, at about 27,000ft. They didn't know what had happened to me. I don't think they were sure whether they were ever going to see me again."

Mr Venables, of Highbury, said that he had decided to climb Everest without oxygen because the small group would have been unable to carry the

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Robbers threaten to shoot child

A gang of four robbers armed with three pistols and a sawn-off shotgun dragged an Indian millionaire's wife from her bathroom and threatened to shoot her child aged eight unless she opened the safe, it was disclosed yesterday.

They then held a policewoman and policeman at gunpoint before escaping by car with £2,000 in cash and about £5,000 worth of jewellery.

The gang burst into the family's home in Winnington Road, Finchley, north London, on Wednesday afternoon. They forced family members into the kitchen where they were ordered to lie on the floor.

The robbers then broke down the door of the bathroom, but while the millionaire's wife opened the safe her mother-in-law raised the alarm by pressing an emergency button connected to Scotland Yard. When police arrived the robbers were forewarned by seeing them on a security television screen inside the house.

They burst out of the house pointing guns at the policewoman who was at the door and the police driver who was still in his car.

NUS in new court bid

The National Union of Seamen is to launch another High Court appeal on Tuesday to win back assets sequestered a month ago. Lawyers have advised the union that a daily demonstration outside the eastern dock at Dover is not illegal and that the NUS is complying with the law by using only six pickets to talk to P&O ferry employees as they go to work. P&O, involved in a lengthy dispute with the union, is certain to oppose the court action. The company would not, however, disclose its options yesterday.

Chess title hope

Julian Hodgson, the London player, has won his game against Mark Hebden in round six of the Watson Farley and Williams international chess challenge in London. He now has 4½ points and leads the tournament. He will earn the title of grandmaster if he can score 3½ points in the remaining five rounds. In another key sixth round game, Matthew Sadler, aged 14, drew with Susan Arkell, Britain's only professional female chess player.

Press champion dies

Mr Brian Roberts, former editor of *The Sunday Telegraph*, who won a medal from the Institute of Journalists for defending the freedom of the press after he was acquitted of Official Secrets Act charges, died yesterday aged 81. The trial led to a committee chaired by Lord Franks recommending the repeal and replacement of Section Two of the Act. Mr Roberts was editor of *The Sunday Telegraph* from 1966 until 1976.

Equal pay claim fails

An industrial tribunal at Bristol has rejected a claim by 17 St Ivel women laboratory employees that they should earn the same as men working as flexible craftsmen and chief operators at a dairy factory in Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire. The women claimed they were being discriminated against because of their sex. The tribunal ruled: "The differences in the pay of the applicants and their comparators are genuinely due to material factors which are not the differences in their sexes."

BT's wrong numbers

British Telecom has admitted listing 30,000 incorrect telephone numbers in a new directory. The directory covers Severnside - from Weston-super-Mare to Devizes - and includes numbers that are not yet available. Companies in the affected area have complained that customers have been unable to contact them. "It is unfortunate, but there was nothing else we could do", Telecom said yesterday.

Union strikes home loans deal with top bank for members

By Roland Ruld

The GMB made history yesterday by establishing a link with a high street bank in an attempt to offer potential union members a more attractive financial package than any of its rivals.

In an effort to win the inter-union membership war, Britain's third largest union rejected the TUC's own Unity Trust Bank, which recently established a financial services subsidiary, in favour of dealing directly with the Trustee Savings Bank (Scotland).

The deal with the TSB, which Mr John Edmonds, GMB general secretary, described as the "best package of financial services on offer to a trade union", includes:

● The first cut-price personal loans, with interest charges six per cent lower than the going rate.

● The first union customized Visa card for GMB members with the union's own logo.

● Discount mortgages, with an interest rate fixed quarterly at 1 per cent above the London interbank rate. One-hundred per cent mortgages will be available and the bank's normal arrangement fee of £100 will be waived.

● Cheaper house, car, holiday and life insurance for union members, as well as free investment and pensions advice.

Mr Edmonds denied that the package was aimed at taking members from other unions but added that "it would be in our interest if people did shop around".

The financial package,

which also includes an £11.50 saving for members who want to join the Breakdown Recovery Club, is likely to be seen as further advancement down the road of "business unionism", which has been criticized by the left.

Mr Edmonds said mainstream unionism was still his main aim, but he admitted the package will be used as an "organizational tool" in recruiting young and part-time workers who no longer believe it is essential to join a union.

"The successful union of the future will have a modern structure and modern style. People working in the industries of the 1990s will not respond to the slogans of the 1960s."

The trend towards the so-called business unionism was started by the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union two years ago.

Last month, the National Union of Public Employees launched a financial package for its 650,000 members, including a £10 cash bonus for those opening an account through the trade union bank, Unity Trust.

Nupe denied that it was introducing "business unionism" because no third party was profiting from its decision to offer members financial services. Unity Trust ploughs its commissions back into the trade union movement.

Although the GMB union will not receive any commission for offering its members financial services TSB obvi-

ously will, which will not please the left, which is concerned with the commercialization of unions.

The GMB's financial package was negotiated after a Harris poll showed that 60 per cent of members wanted a financial service.

● The electricians' union has accused some employers of acting arrogantly over rules governing company pension plans. The leadership is warning members of the danger that the overall quality of some occupational schemes could fall.

A guide for the union's 365,000 members criticizes some employers' refusal to allow workers to return to a company plan once they have opted out of the occupational scheme.

The union says that about half the working population has access to an occupational pension scheme. However, while new legislation makes it easier for employers to set up pension schemes, there is a danger that the overall quality of schemes will be reduced.

● Workers in the building industry have won a 5.9 per cent pay increase dating from June 27. Most of the 600,000 people employed in construction earn more than the basic rate, but all are expected to benefit from the deal.

The new agreement means that guaranteed minimum earnings for labourers and general operatives go up from £101 to £106.86; and for craft operatives from £118.56 to £125.58.

Holding court



The Princess of Wales in the presiding magistrate's chair at Lewes in Sussex, where she opened the town's new courts complex yesterday. She inspected the courts after a tour of the centre's cell block.

Alert at Maze as men are moved

By Paul Valley

More than fifty IRA and "loyalist" paramilitary prisoners were moved out of the Maze prison in Northern Ireland yesterday in a prelude to the closure of the compounds built there 17 years ago to house IRA suspects interned without trial.

The men were moved to Maghaberry prison, near Armagh, a top-security jail that was built last year and that houses many of the "supergrass" informers responsible for the conviction of many republican and loyalist paramilitaries.

Government and security officials are watching apprehensively in case the decision should inflame old grievances about the men's status.

The move is also likely to prove the most severe test yet of the Government's policy of integrating paramilitary prisoners from the two opposing factions.

It is understood that the men, mainly serving life sentences, have been moved from the H-block section of the Maze. Their cells are to be occupied by special category prisoners who at present are held in the jail's compounds section.

There are plans for the compounds to be closed soon, apparently on the ground of economy. It costs £80,000 a year to keep a prisoner there, compared with £50,000 in the H blocks.

There are thought to be no plans, however, to abolish the special category status which was first given to paramilitary prisoners by the Government after a long hunger strike in 1972. Under it they are not required to work, may wear their own clothes and are entitled to extra visits.

Since 1976 no new prisoners have been admitted to the category. But the existing 1,500 men and women in that category retained the status and today there are 92 of them in the Maze.

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Spain 12.00; Sweden 12.00;
Switzerland 12.00; Taiwan 12.00;
Thailand 12.00; USA \$2.00; West Germany 12.00.

Jenkins backs Ashdown in SLD leadership race

By Richard Ford
Political Correspondent

Mr Paddy Ashdown's campaign to lead the Social and Liberal Democrats won the support yesterday of Lord Jenkins, who said the party needed dynamic and strong leadership.

The endorsement from the founding father of the SDP came as Mr Alan Beith formally entered the leadership contest by emphasizing his experience and long party service.

Lord Jenkins said that Mr Ashdown, SLD MP for Yeovil, would

give "the most effective leadership" to the new force in British politics. In an interview on the BBC World Service, he said the new party needed strong and dynamic leadership after a "dismaying year" during which "an awful mess had been made of the centre ground of British politics".

Mr Beith, in a speech last night at Poynton, Cheshire, his birthplace, dismissed his rival's aim of pushing the Labour Party as being one of "fighting for second place" at the next general election.

Mr Ashdown said in reply that Mr Beith was offering the centrism of the past five years which had significantly failed.

Mr Beith indicated that Mr Ashdown's strategy of replacing Labour as the major opposition party would effectively hand the next general election to the Tories.

"The idea that Labour can be wiped off the map is somehow misleading. People have been trying to get rid of us for 50 years and have not succeeded and they are certainly not going to do

it to the Labour Party", he said.

Mr Beith, SLD MP for Berwick on Tweed, said the idea of fighting to achieve the balance of power had been buried. With two candidates formally declared, it is unclear whether a third will emerge. A spokesman for Mr Robert MacLennan, another former SDP leader, said last night that he would make a statement on his leadership intentions "at the appropriate time". However, most SLD members believe he will have difficulty in finding two MPs to nominate him.

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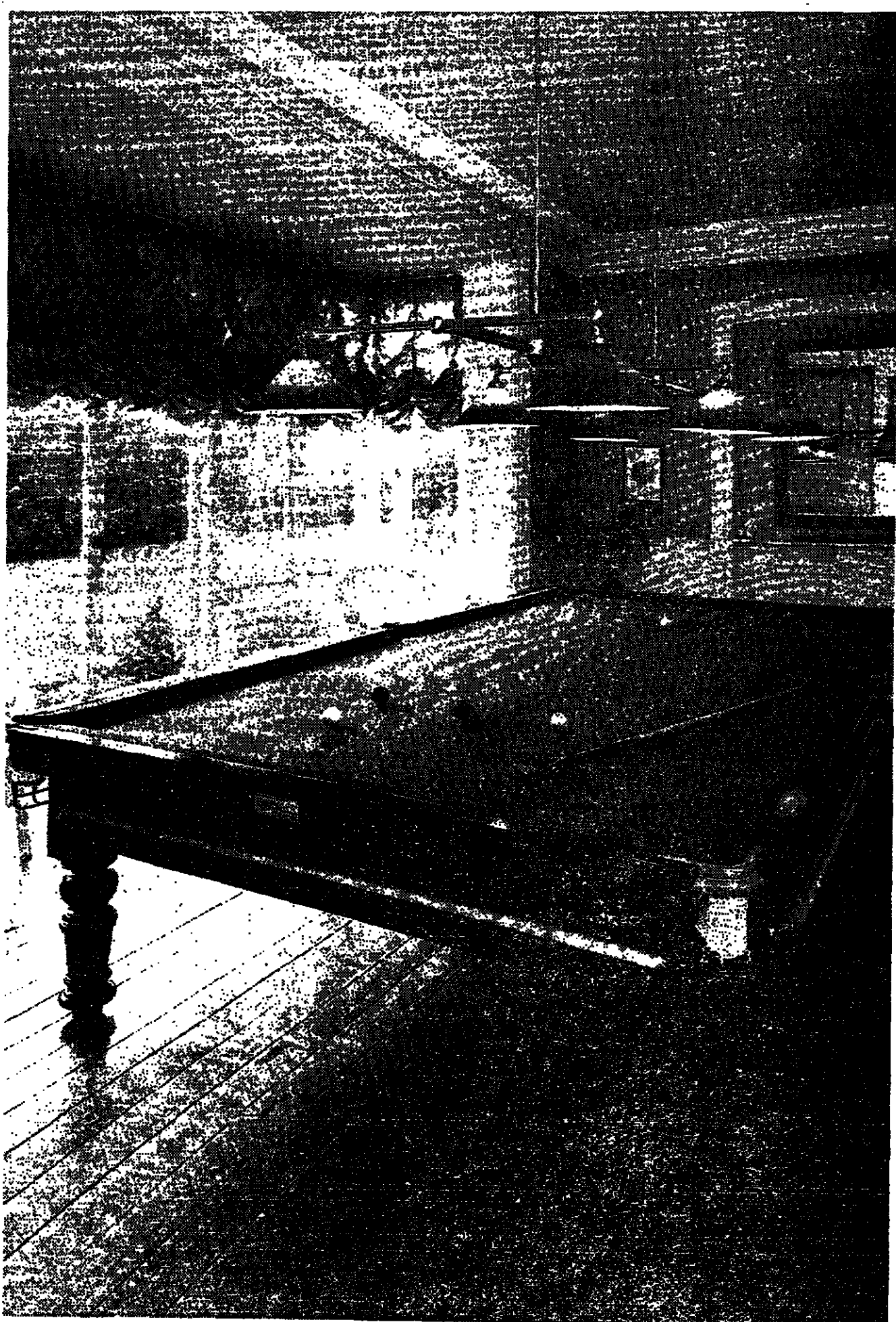
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Vaccine for cancer of cervix 'ready for testing soon'

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

A new vaccine which could help to prevent cervical cancer is being developed by British scientists, and may be ready for testing on volunteers within the next few years.

The vaccine is being produced with the aim of neutralising specific strains of the human papilloma virus (HPV), which are believed to be an important cause of the disease, and which are sexually transmitted.

Cancer of the cervix kills about 2,000 women in Britain every year, and claims about 400,000 lives annually worldwide. It is often not detected until it is too late to be treated.

Scientists at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund laboratories in central London hope that if their work is successful, the vaccine will prevent the majority of cancers of the cervix in immunized women.

Dr Lionel Crawford, head of the molecular virology laboratory which is carrying out the work, said yesterday: "There are still obstacles to be overcome but we are making progress."

"We believe that the presence of certain strains of HPV in the cervix starts a series of changes which lead to the cancer."

"If we can neutralize the

virus and stop those changes occurring, we believe that in most cases the cancer will not develop."

However, the vaccine would be of no benefit to women already suffering from the disease, he said.

Researchers believe that the risks of cervical cancer are increased if women first have sexual intercourse during their teenage years and then go on to have a number of sexual partners.

That is because during adolescence the cervix is particularly sensitive to changes which can become cancerous.

The risks become greater if women also smoke and do not use barrier methods of contraception, such as the cap and the condom.

The disease seldom manifests itself until much later in life, when women may be less sexually active and less likely to seek a cervical smear test, Dr Crawford said.

"While we hope a vaccine will be part of the answer, there is much that women can do themselves to reduce their risks."

There are more than fifty different strains of the human papilloma virus, which cause genital infections, and which can be carried without symp-

oms by both men and women.

Only a few strains are suspected of having a role in cervical cancer. Scientists think that these in themselves are not sufficient to cause cervical cancer, but may be a necessary element in the genesis of the disease.

Sir Walter Bodmer, fund director of research, said: "The prospects are good of eventually developing a vaccine."

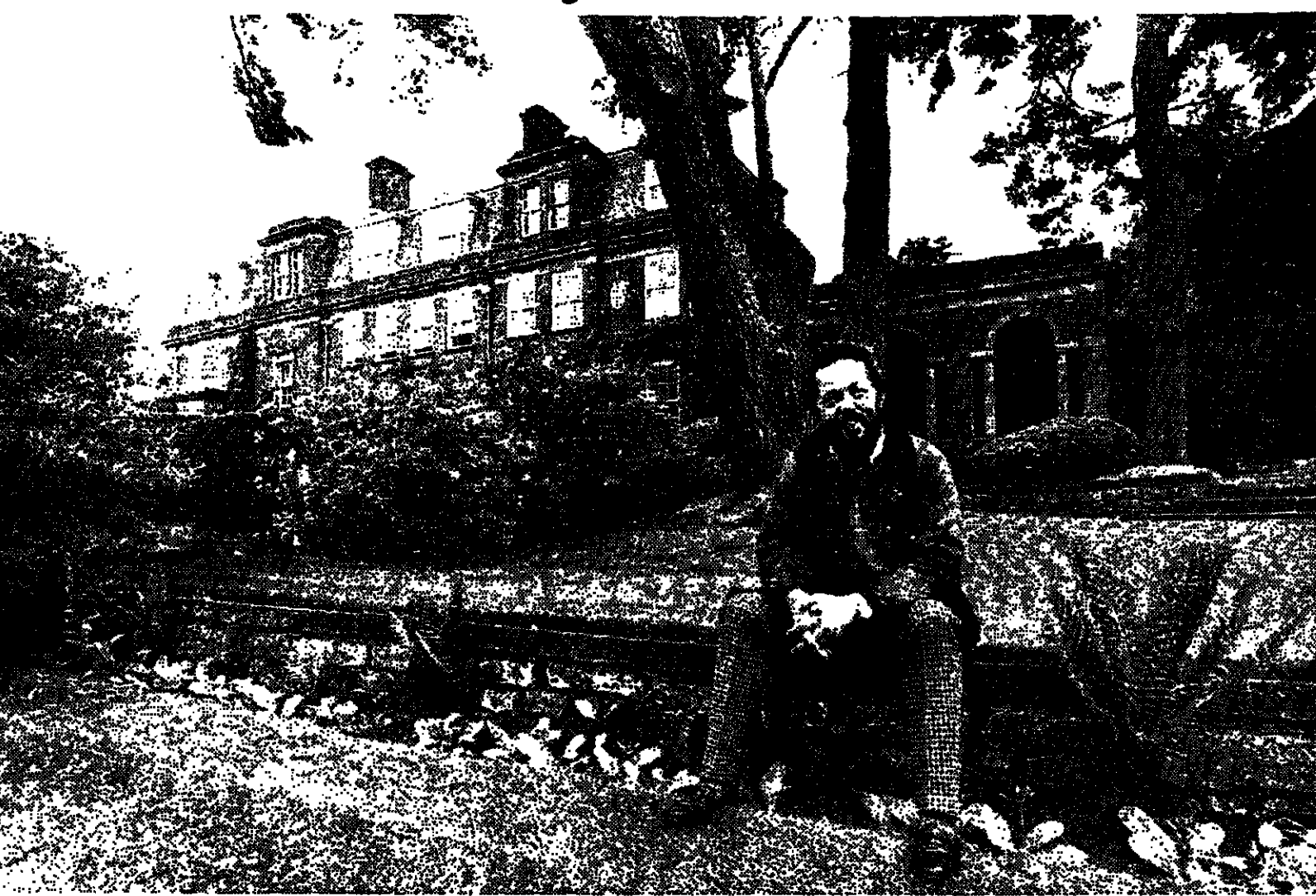
He emphasized that a vaccine was unlikely to be available generally for some years. It might not offer total protection because other factors, such as smoking, are involved in the development of the disease.

He was speaking at the launch of an educational video on prevention of all forms of cancer, which includes a warning about the links between cervical cancer and sexual promiscuity.

The ICRF team has used genetic engineering techniques to identify the components of the virus which are implicated in the disease and those which could be used to combat it.

The first women to test the vaccine are likely to be outpatients at clinics for sexually-transmitted diseases.

Macmillan family home for sale at £5m



Lord Stockton relaxing in the grounds of Birchgrove House, East Sussex, which he finds too grand for a weekend cottage (Photograph: Mark Pepper).

By John Young

Birchgrove House, the family home of Lord Stockton, the former prime minister Harold Macmillan who died in 1986, is being put on the market by his grandson and heir at an asking price of more than £5 million.

The estate occupies 1,234 acres on the edge of Ashdown Forest, at Chelwood Gate, East Sussex. It lost an estimated 60,000 trees in last October's hurricane, but retains its seclusion and, in the lush green of early June, some superb views.

The house was used to entertain the great and famous including Eisenhower, Kennedy, de Gaulle, Krushchev and Nehru during Macmillan's period of office. He openly preferred it to Chequers, the Prime Minister's official country residence.

The family first acquired the estate in 1896, just over half a century after the founding of the Macmillan publishing empire in Cambridge. The present house was designed largely by Macmillan's American mother, and was completed in 1926.

During the Second World War it was used to house evacuees, and for a short time afterwards it was a school.

Macmillan and his wife, Lady Dorothy, returned there in 1950. She was largely responsible for planning the gardens, which have on occasions been opened to the public.

The house is elegant, warm and comfortable, and contains some Georgian fireplaces, doors salvaged from Devonshire House, in Piccadilly — the former London home of her father, the

ninth Duke of Devonshire — and a number of family portraits. After his wife's death, in 1966, Macmillan continued to live there.

The present Lord Stockton, chairman of Macmillan Ltd, who inherited the title because his father, Maurice Macmillan, former MP for Farnham, died before his grandfather, said yesterday that he was "a little sad" to be selling Birchgrove.

He said: "I am a publisher first and foremost, and most of my business is in London. I think you will agree that as a weekend cottage it is a little too grand."

Although the cost of restoring the damage caused by the hurricane had been put at some £2 million, that had not played a significant part in his decision.

The sale is being handled by Humberts, the land agents.

Portfolio — PLUS NEW — Accumulator Australia trip beckons for winning pair

Mr Henry Matthews and his wife Beryl have thought often about travelling to Australia. After winning £2,000 in yesterday's *Portfolio* competition they are now planning to pack their bags.

"My wife was in Australia during the war, and she has always wanted to go back to see her friends", Mr Matthews, aged 60, said. He is due to retire later this year from his teaching job.

"Her friends seem to be better than us at getting the money together and have come over. Now it's our chance."

Part of his winnings, however, will be devoted to helping their two sons, one of whom is taking his finals at university.

Mr Matthews, of Newton Lane, Kingston, Hereford and Worcester, shared the daily £4,000 prize with Mr R. W. Hatley, of Wood Lane, Fleet, Hampshire.

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NHS 'no island of equality'

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

The National Health Service can no longer be "an island of equality" within an unequal society, leading health service managers said yesterday.

They argued that the NHS should compete aggressively with the private sector by expanding private wings in NHS hospitals and by providing chargeable luxury services.

The Institute of Health Services Management, in its final report on alternative funding for the NHS, which will go to the Prime Minister's review, suggests that the NHS should capitalize on the readiness of some people to pay more for health care.

It also accepts that some aspects of equality have to be traded for greater consumer choice. It says NHS patients could buy additional non-clinical services such as extra privacy, secretarial services, colour television, video and "Indian take-aways".

However, it rejects a pro-

posal supported by Miss Barbara Young, the outgoing president, for an express service whereby NHS patients could pay a nominal sum to queue-jump waiting lists.

Mr Ken Jarrold, district general manager of Gloucester Health Authority, who launched the report at the institute's annual conference in Bournemouth, said: "The assumption is that the NHS is an island of inequality within an unequal society and that somehow it is only within the health service that this principle of equality will be maintained."

"The health service has to be a clear reflection of the society it is in and the society it serves and it is very clear in this country that equality has not been a guiding principle for a good many years."

In this context, it was unrealistic to say that the NHS alone could be run any differently, he said.

The report supports the present funding system through general taxation. However, it says a tax earmarked for public health insurance could be backed by a system of topping up whereby people could pay more to obtain extra services from either the public or private sector.

Mr Christopher Spry, district general manager of Newcastle Health Authority, a member of the report working party, said: "If this country wants greater consumer choice then this country must accept that means that not all people will receive exactly the same in every respect."

Topping up would provide greater consumer choice without too great a detriment to the founding principle of equity, he said.

Alternative Delivery and Funding of Health Services: Final Report (Institute of Health Services Management, 75 Portland Place, London W1N 4AN; £4.95).

Laird gets his word in at royal event

By Kerry Gill

A salvo fired across the glen by the Laird of Gleneagles finally struck its target yesterday during the opening of the Gleneagles Mark Phillips Equestrian Centre in Perthshire.

At the formal opening by the Princess Royal, Sir Norman MacFarlane, chairman of Guinness, said: "For obvious reasons I have been asked not to mention Gleneagles without following it with the word 'hotel'."

For Alexander Chinnery Haldane, twenty-seventh

Laird of Gleneagles, the battle of semantics had ended in a qualified victory. The laird, now aged 80 but still able to blast over his 7,000-acre estate on his Triumph Thunderbird motorcycle, has waged a decade-long war of words over the use of "Gleneagles" first for the famous hotel and, lately, over Captain Phillips' ambushing of the name for his equestrian centre. However, the laird's demand that the word "hotel" should be included in the £3 million centre's title appeared to have been ignored.

There was confusion yes-

terday over a letter that was written by Captain Phillips to the laird saying that he had referred the matter to the hotel owners, Guinness.

Mr Broderick Haldane, the laird's brother, said that Captain Phillips had apologized. "We had a very nice letter from the captain, it seems he was unaware that the only Gleneagles in Scotland was our estate. He has now agreed to insert the word 'hotel' into all advertising which is most generous of him."

Broderick, however, has obviously got the wrong end of

the stick as the letter — seen by *The Times* — mentions nothing about changing the name and only says that the captain had passed the matter onto the hotel, and that he had apologized for any delay in replying to the laird. Guinness, however, insisted that there were no plans to change the name of the equestrian centre.

The Princess Royal watched as some of Scotland's most famous equestrians paraded, among them Mr Ian Stark, the first rider to finish first and second in the Badminton Horse Trials.

New centre, page 43

Surcharge victory but prices will rise

By Shona Crawford Poole
Travel Editor

Britain's holidaymakers won and lost the battle over holiday surcharges yesterday when the Association of British Travel Agents announced new measures to "sweep away" 90 per cent of them but warned package deals are likely to rise as a result.

Rises of between £3 and £4 on a typical £250 package are expected.

Yesterday's announcement by the association was its response to growing pressure to abolish surcharges from MPs and consumer groups. Mr John Butcher, Minister for Industry and Consumer Affairs, said after examining the scheme: "I believe we have made major steps forward which will greatly reduce the scale of the fuel surcharge problem."

But the Consumers' Association re-

acted coolly to the announcement saying it "would still like to see all surcharges abolished".

The association's 660 tour operating members, whose holidays account for more than nine out of 10 of overseas packages sold, have agreed not to pass on the first 2 per cent of any increased prices charged to them by their suppliers after brochures have been printed.

To monitor the policy, which comes into operation next summer, the association is setting up a surcharge audit group.

Independent auditors and representatives of the Office of Fair Trading will be included to ensure that "we are seen to be fair". Mr John Boyle, chairman of the association's Tour Operators' Council, said: "The audit committee will have impeccable credentials."

Abta's decision to do something about surcharging more forcibly comes in the wake of increasing opposition to surcharges.

It was Sir Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading, whose accusation that fuel surcharging tour operators were "ripping off" the public, who seems to have stung the tour operators into action.

In evidence to the Commons Select Committee on Trade and Industry this year, he accused holiday companies of using unjustifiable surcharges to improve their profit margins on cut-price holidays.

● Thomson Holidays has offered winter breaks in Moscow at £29 to the first 100 people to apply on Monday who have the surname Reagan. The normal price is £219.

The CAA said last night that it was seeking additional maintenance surveys but denied that there had been a big reduction in their numbers over the past five years.

● British Airways is to fly Concorde twice a week to Dallas/Fort Worth, starting this month.

Heads want school leaving age of 18

By Sarah Thompson, Education Reporter

The leader of the National Association of Head Teachers called for the school-leaving age in Britain to be raised to 18 yesterday, in order to avoid a skilled manpower crisis.

Mr David Hart, the association's general secretary, said fewer young people stayed in full time education in Britain than in Italy and Spain.

He told the association's conference in Eastbourne that the poll tax would discourage more families from allowing children to remain at school or college.

The association wants every teenager aged between 16 and 18 to receive a weekly allowance and is also pressing for the educational system for those under 18 to be completely reorganized so that students can transfer more easily between academic and vocational courses.

The plan is expected to be one of the main issues raised with Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education,

when he attends the conference today.

The heads also issued a four-point ultimatum to the Government yesterday, demanding better preparation for the introduction of local financial management for schools.

The delegation of budgets to schools is one of the more popular features of the Education Reform Bill. However, heads said yesterday that they needed adequate resourcing, thorough training, full administrative back-up and better pay for their additional responsibilities if the system was to work properly.

Conference delegates also urged the Government and local education authorities to give urgent consideration to "the increasing violence and rising level of disruption" in schools.

In particular, heads want legal backing for the prosecution of attackers and the right to expel disruptive pupils.

Staff cuts are hitting airline safety, say unions

By Harvey Elliott
Air Correspondent

A shortage of airworthiness surveyors is lowering safety standards, the TUC said yesterday.

The surveyors are highly skilled engineers employed by the Civil Aviation Authority to ensure that airlines main-

tain their aircraft to a high standard.

Mr Bill Brett, assistant secretary of the Institute of Professional Civil Servants, said that the number of surveyors had been cut in the past five years in spite of a big increase in aircraft on the British register.

He said: "The big airlines maintain their aircraft to a high standard, but the smaller airlines are going to be a worry in the future as they grow in size and come under pressure to cut corners to keep to their schedules. We need these additional surveyors urgently."

The CAA said last night that it was seeking additional maintenance surveys but denied that there had been a big reduction in their numbers over the past five years.

● British Airways is to fly Concorde twice a week to Dallas/Fort Worth, starting this month.

Eastern bloc advertising

The Iron Curtain goes up on Coke commercials

By Richard Evans
Media Editor

An Eastern Bloc country is to broadcast and publish Western advertisements promoting some of the world's most famous household brands for the first time this autumn, it was disclosed yesterday.

And the combination of *glasnost* and *perestroika* is expected to spread to other Iron Curtain nations, including the Soviet Union, within years.

McCann-Erickson, one of the world's largest advertising agencies, has followed up its breakthrough into China earlier this decade by becoming the first Western agency to be allowed to operate in eastern Europe.

The international agency, whose clients include Coca Cola, Sony, Nestle, Unilever and Johnson & Johnson, is joining forces with Johnson, based in Budapest, and Interpress, based in Moscow, to launch the new venture which will officially get off the ground later this month.

Companies who use household names to advertise their products are virtually guaranteed some audience recall. But that success can backfire when, for instance, the star dies suddenly, as in the case of Leonard Rossiter of Cinnamo fame, or pulls out of the campaign unexpectedly.

This week *Courage*, which brews Foster's lager in Britain, has been threatened by the rumoured withdrawal of Paul Hogan, the Australian "Crocodile Dundee", who has appeared in the group's £12 million advertising campaign for the past

eight years. Yesterday *Courage* said there were plans for one more series of advertisements involving Hogan.

The success of the Foster's campaign has helped to give the group a 6 per cent share of the market. It is now in fourth place behind Carling Black Label, Heineken and Carlsberg and may reach the top slot by the end of the year.

This contrasts with the American *Beerweek*, the world's best selling beer, which has secured only a one per cent niche in the British market.

He added: "Many Western countries have a good image in Hungary. They know if there is a product coming from England, America or West Germany it must have good quality; it must be fashionable."

Apart from dubbing US or European made commercials with a Hungarian voice, the content of the advertisements are unlikely to be

radically changed to cater for the new audience.

Dr Serenyi added: "Western advertising has a very good image because in Western countries you have had competition for a very long time."


Although there is a ban on advertisements promoting alcohol, cigarettes and medical products,

regulations governing the content of advertising are less restrictive than in many Western European countries. A ban on advertisements for imported goods has been lifted recently, but the Communist government insists foreign goods which are advertised must be fully available throughout the country.

Dr Serenyi also wants to use Western advertising techniques for promoting Hungarian goods at home and abroad.

The demand for domestic advertising has increased dramatically as a result of more competition in key sectors of the economy. A few years ago there was just one state bank and one state run insurance company, but now there are eight major banks and four insurance firms.

Tourist companies, which until recently were forbidden from advertising holidays outside the Eastern Bloc, have also flourished.



Coutts & Co.
announce that their
Base Rate
is increased from
7.50% to 8.00% per annum
with effect from the
3rd June, 1988
until further notice.

All facilities (including regulated consumer credit agreements) with a rate linked to
Coutts Base Rate will be varied accordingly.

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National Westminster Bank PLC

**NatWest announces that
with effect from and including
Friday 3rd June 1988
its Base Rate
is increased from
7.50% to 8.00% per annum.**

All facilities (including regulated consumer credit agreements) with a rate of interest linked to
NatWest Base Rate will be varied accordingly.

41 Lothbury London EC2P 2BP

British models absent in leading eight buys

Japanese top car reliability tests

By Daniel Ward
Motor Industry
Correspondent

Japanese cars are consistently the most reliable, according to *Which?* the Consumers' Association magazine. No British badge car is included in the top eight recommended models selected in its annual buyers' guide.

The *Which?* guide published today has plaudits for the Nissan Micra and Peugeot 205 among small cars. The Audi 80, Citroen BX, Honda Accord and Nissan Bluebird are the recommended family cars. The Volvo 200 and Audi 100 are rated the best large cars. The Sunderland-built Bluebird has since last month been classified as a British car as it incorporates more than 60 per cent EEC-sourced components.

The reliability ratings, compiled

from 25,000 Consumers' Association questionnaires completed by readers, make grim reading for the British car industry. Of cars registered in 1986 and 1987, the Ford Fiesta is the only British-built car among the top 13 most reliable models.

The Nissan Micra and Toyota Carina came top overall in a category which included seven Japanese cars, four German and one Spanish-made Vauxhall model.

Worst for reliability were the Fiat Regata, Renault 5 and Rover 800 which were judged worse than average when assessed for breakdowns, faults, problems and days off the road.

The report is particularly damaging for an executive car such as the Rover. Many Rovers are bought by companies for senior staff.

Mr Howard Pemberton, operations director of Dial Contracts, a leasing

company, defended the Rover yesterday. "I believe a lot of people knock a British badge car and conveniently forget faults with foreign cars", he said. "The Rover 800 is certainly no worse than its rivals. We have had bad BMWs just like we have had Rovers."

However, one of the largest leasing companies, Interleasing, with more than 45,000 cars of all makes, said the Rover's reliability had proved disappointing and many customers had complained.

Austin Rover said that sales of Rover 800s had increased 33 per cent this year to fleet operators, traditionally the most demanding sector.

Since the controversial Consumers' Association reliability report in January the Audi 100 and Mercedes 190 have lost their "star" status and the Fiat Uno has graduated from being a

"lemon" to simply average, like the large Audi. The Montego and Metro have also improved their position. Both the BMW 3 series and Volvo 340 have been dropped from the most reliable category for cars three to five years old.

The Triumph Acclaim is the only British-built model to rival the trouble-free motoring of the Honda Accord and Civic, Mazda 323 and 626 and Toyota Carina and Corolla, which proved the most reliable models at three to five years old.

Among German cars, the Audi Coupé, BMW 5 series and VW Golf 1.3 were considered only "average" and the older Jaguar XJ6 is "looking poor".

Which? claims it is "scandalous that motorists have to pay more than £200 on top of the list price for delivery of a new car."

Motor industry's hopes and fears for 1992

By Our Motor Industry
Correspondent

The UK motor industry will benefit from improved demand of up to 100,000 cars a year and higher profits after the introduction of the single EEC market in 1992, motor industry executives said yesterday.

However, there are fears about the effect of consumers buying cars in the cheapest EEC countries and the difficulty of restricting Japanese car imports.

The high street revolution in retailing has yet to be seen in car selling and service and market research has found that some motorists regard a visit to a dealer as "more like going to the dentist". Garage executives were told that 90 per cent of motorists will buy again from a

Mr Graham Day, Rover Group chairman, said in Birmingham the single market would make the British industry more profitable because there is already free and intense competition in the UK car market. France and Italy in particular still

had barriers against Japanese imports and this gave manufacturers a strong home base. Mr Day said: "We in Britain are resilient enough to survive the shocks whereas some of our neighbouring countries will have a little more to cope with."

Professor Garel Rhys, of Cardiff Business School and a permanent adviser to the Commons Select Committee on Trade and Industry, warned the executives that while the prospect of lower car prices in 1992 would stimulate demand the motor-

ists are likely to be more prepared to buy cars abroad to take advantage of local tax and price differentials.

Professor Rhys said the effect of 1992 on the used car trade could be immense. Used cars will no longer be taxed when imported and there is the added attraction of generally lower second-hand prices on the Continent. The single market was unlikely to lead to greater collaboration among European car makers.

WI seeks tough line on rape



WI delegates voting unanimously for heavy sentences for rapists (Photograph: Tim Bishop)

By Mark Ellis

Judges were yesterday urged by the country's largest women's organization to impose maximum sentences on rapists, to reflect society's abhorrence of the crime.

A call for the castration of mass rapists met with rapturous applause from the 6,000 delegates in the Albert Hall in London for the WI's annual meeting.

The debate was high on the agenda because of rising concern among many of the nation's 350,000 WI members about inconsistency in the sentencing of rapists and lenient terms of imprisonment.

Mrs Jean Entwistle, of Sefton WI in Lancashire, said: "No man, no matter how learned he might be, can possibly imagine the horror, both mental and physical, which is inflicted on rape victims and the humiliation and disgust that goes with the reporting of such a crime."

Women judges imposed the toughest sentences on rapists, but the average sentence was only three and a half years' imprisonment.

She added: "It is every woman's right to expect a fitting sentence for rape. The time has come for us to make our feelings known and we must fight on this with the same determination as the suffragettes fought for our votes."

Sefton WI wants Lord Donaldson of Lynton, the Master of the Rolls, to ensure that sentences reflect "the extremely serious nature" of the crime and tabled the motion, which was passed without a dissenting voice, after hearing of a local woman who was raped in broad daylight while eight months pregnant.

Mrs Entwistle said that all women, from young girls out jogging to old ladies in their own homes, were potential victims and a stronger deterrent was needed to make Britain a safer place.

Mrs Jane Thorpe, of Southerndown WI in Mid Glamorgan, said figures supplied by the House of Commons showed that cases of reported rape between 1981 and 1986 had more than doubled in England and Wales.

"That appears to be only the tip of the iceberg, as rape counsellors believe only one-third of all cases of rape are reported", she said.

Prison sentences of under five years are imposed on about half of convicted rapists and she asked: "The victim is

More than a third of a million members of Women's Institutes were urged to stop buying aerosol sprays which may destroy the Earth's ozone layer.

Delegates unanimously approved a resolution calling on the Government to make mandatory the labelling of products containing chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), which also urged members to do everything to discourage manufacturers from using CFCs in products or processes.

scarred for life, is this level of sentencing truly right?"

She said the popular misconception of a rape victim being a young girl in a mini-skirt hitch-hiking alone at night was remote from the truth, as the majority of victims were known to the offender and attacks usually took place in the home of the victim or the rapist.

The delegates warned to Mrs Patricia Hatherley, of West Kent, who called for life sentences which meant life and said: "Compulsive rapists should not be released from prison unless they agree to castration." (Loud applause). "A barbaric solution? Yes," (more prolonged applause), "but rape is a particularly barbaric offence".

Weekend food prices

First strawberries an excellent buy

The first New Zealand Kiwi fruit are in the shops this week at between 20p and 30p each. The sweet juicy seedless Perlette grapes from Carmel (£1.50-£1.80 a lb) are also making their first appearance.

Other grapes available are Cape sultana £1-£1.30 a lb; Waltham Cross 50p-£1.20; sultana £1-£1.30; Barinka 50p-90p.

Australian Flame is 70p-80p a lb and Thomson seedless 80p-£1.50. Summer fruits include peaches 15p-32p each, nectarines 18p-35p each, and strawberries from Spain, France, Italy and Belgium at 85p-£1 a lb.

Home grown strawberries are said to be excellent although not yet widely available and cost between 65p-£1.10 a ½ lb punnet.

There is an abundance of courgettes at 50p-80p a lb. Flat mushrooms at 40p-60p a half pound are plentiful after the Bank holiday and top quality English asparagus is reasonably priced at £1.35-£2 a lb.

The best salad vegetables are lettuces 22p-£1 each depending on variety. Tomatoes 40p-65p a lb, cucumbers 25p-55p each, and spring onions 20p-40p a bunch.

The average price of home-produced lamb legs is £2.01 a lb but the range is wide and it could be more than £3 if boneless. The average prices of a whole shoulder is just over £1.

Rump steak is down 7p ranging from £2.68 to £3.59 a lb but could be as high as £5.50 in the South-east. Pork is stable with whole leg averaging £1.06 and boneless shoulder £1.25.

Many cuts of New Zealand lamb are down, whole leg between £1.29-£1.60 a lb and whole shoulder 72p-94p.

By midweek supplies of fish were back to normal after the long weekend. All the traditional favourites such as cod, haddock, skate and herring are good buys. Mackerel after last week's shortage is back in plenty at an average 70p a lb.

Grey mullet at £1.10 a lb is good quality. Flatfish in good supply are lemon sole, about £2.20 a lb, and fresh halibut down to about £4.95. Plaice is also available but up in price to about £2.80. Cuttlefish is available at about £1.20. There are exotics to tempt the adventurous: Telapia at £2.45 a lb and Saudi Arabian prawns at £7.50.

Meat and poultry on promotion are Sainsbury's fresh roasting chickens up to 3.5lb, 38p a lb; fresh rump steak £2.48 a lb; Tesco fresh boneless rolled shoulder of pork 94p, fresh minced beef 99p.

Asda Matthews Golden Norfolk frozen basted turkey up to 7lb 15oz £3.89 each. New season lamb chops £1.09 a lb.



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Sock Shop is one of the retailing success stories of the decade in Britain.

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By the end of 1992 the twelve countries in the European Community, including Britain, will be working

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At Sock Shop a senior director has already been appointed to plan for the single European market.

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Is your business primarily involved in:
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dti
the department for Enterprise

مكتبة الامم المتحدة

LRT chief offered to resign 'as a matter of honour'

By Ronald Faux

Sir Keith Bright, chairman and managing director of London Regional Transport, offered to resign "as a matter of honour" after the King's Cross fire, he told the inquiry yesterday.

Answering Mr John Carridge, for London Regional Passenger Committee, he said he had felt he had to offer his resignation, but the Secretary of State for Transport had asked him to stay on. After discussing the matter with him, Sir Keith had agreed.

In a searching examination by Mr Desmond Fennell, QC, the inquiry chairman, Sir Keith agreed that, although budget planning and productivity on the London Underground were subject to strict monitoring, safety was not.

Sir Keith said it was deliberate policy to allow subordinate companies, including London Underground Ltd (LUL), to stand on their feet and to leave operational matters to the Underground board and the professionals.

Sir Keith also thought it would be appropriate and preferable for an outside body to monitor safety on the Underground and, after earlier declining to give his thoughts on what had gone wrong with the system, he was persuaded by Mr Fennell to describe the shortcomings he had identified.

The single most important shortcoming, he said, was in the position of the station

control, the nerve centre, at King's Cross.

"When an emergency occurs there must be very, very clear arrangements and agreements as to who is in charge. One cannot possibly have an emergency without someone being in charge of it."

"The potential for confusion between London Underground, British Transport Police, and fire services staff leads me to believe that these three bodies must sit down and find a series of steps to cover all future emergencies. I would like to put them into a room and not let them out until they reach an agreement. I would not care who is in charge of what so long as it worked."

Sir Keith added that London Underground had to find a way in which all line controllers could be informed, as nearly simultaneously as possible, of any emergency so that there was no phasing of trains on different lines.

When an emergency occurred, he said, there ought to be signs at station entrances warning people not to enter the station.

Sir Keith said that the application of water to a fire automatically should be arranged, even though there may be apparatus on the market that was not entirely reliable.

Mr Fennell said that if Sir Keith's judgement about the future of London Regional

Transport was correct, it would not be possible for it to monitor safety on the London Underground. He asked Sir Keith if he thought monitoring by an outside body would be advisable.

Sir Keith replied: "I believe the matters we have seen, why we are here, are so important that it would be appropriate and preferable to have a monitoring body of all such organizations."

When Mr Fennell pressed Sir Keith to give his thoughts about what had gone wrong in the disaster he emphasized that the inquiry was not into personal shortcomings. It was an examination of a system. If it was possible to make recommendations that put in place a safer system, that seemed to him something everyone would applaud.

Mr Gerald Clarkson, Chief Fire Officer for London, told the inquiry that the London Underground system was grossly overburdened. Rush-hour passengers were sometimes unable to get off trains because of the crush of people on the platform.

Mr Fennell said that, although overcrowding was not a subject the inquiry had been asked to investigate, "my view is that I ought to indicate in my report that congestion is a matter of serious concern. If there is an iceberg ahead we need to stick a marker on it."

The inquiry continues today.

Eclectic craft on view



Children take to the oars on board a royal launch, on display at the Second Annual Wooden Boat Show, at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich until Sunday.

Justices' clerks' conference

Cash plea to revive courts

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Home Secretary was urged yesterday to provide a "massive injection of cash" to the magistrates' courts' service, said to be facing its "worst crisis in living memory".

Mr Neil McKittrick, chairman of the professional purposes committee of the Justices' Clerks' Society, said that as a result of an acute shortage of court clerks, trials were being cancelled and courtrooms "mothballed".

In one Surrey area, he told the society's annual conference at Blackpool, "no fewer than 45 courts have been cancelled this year, 25 in May alone".

In outer London, some courtrooms were in mothballs because of the lack of court clerk staff.

Trainees were having to do the work of experienced clerks, Mr McKittrick said. In the West Midlands, a third of the court clerk staff had less than one year's experience.

The crisis had arisen because court clerks were being lured to the private sector and to the crown prosecution service, where higher salaries had been negotiated, he said. There were 490 vacancies in the May 18 issue of the *Law Society Gazette*.

Mr McKittrick outlined the findings of a survey carried out this year, based on replies by 172 justices' clerks. It showed they were working in a service which was "the worst in living memory".

The salary levels for court

clerks, even after re-grading, were "totally unsatisfactory" and could not compete with the CPS, local authorities or private practice.

Court clerks, who advise magistrates on the law, as well as bearing administrative responsibilities, typically earn between £12,500 and £15,000.

They are mostly in their 20s and 30s. Many are qualified lawyers but increasingly fewer lawyers are going into the job, according to Mr McKittrick.

Giving examples of shortages, Mr McKittrick said one justices' clerk had found, on taking up a new post, a vacancy that had been unfilled for a year, and another was unable to fill a post, vacant since 1985, for six months after it was re-graded.

In Bath, two retired court clerks had been brought back part-time. In the Duchy of Lancaster, of 42 court clerks appointed at one court since 1973, 27 had resigned.

Offenders aged 17 to 21 should be dealt with by the juvenile court and not by ordinary magistrates' courts, Mr Jim Biggin, clerk to the Oxford justices, told the conference.

"If we are to move away from custodial sentences for young offenders, except for the very serious offences or the persistent offender, then wouldn't our present juvenile panel magistrates be better equipped to sentence young offenders as well?" he asked.

550 Tube safety violations

By John Spicer, Employment Affairs Correspondent

London Underground safety inspectors found 550 violations of safety rules in the first three months of this year.

A team of investigators, set up in December, a few weeks after 31 people died in the King's Cross fire disaster, inspected 40 Tube stations. They found inflammable waste, inadequate storage facilities for paraffin and other items, and uncollected rubbish.

Last night London Underground said all the violations could be described as "minor"

and were dealt with immediately.

Dr Tony Ridley, chairman and managing director of London Underground, gave details of the violations in an interview in *Urban Transport International* magazine.

He said the investigation team was set up under the control of a newly-appointed safety auditor, Mr Ted Osborne, whose job was to reinforce, not replace management's responsibility.

Dr Ridley explained that the safety auditor reported di-

rectly to him and the board of London Underground. He had a team of inspectors who went round at short notice to examine non-compliance.

The 550 violations were found between Mr Osborne's appointment in December and March 22.

Last night London Underground said that by reporting every problem, the investigators were doing exactly what they had been asked to do. Usually by the time their report was received, the violation had been put right.

1920s designer fashion finds a home in Japan

SALEROOM

by Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market
Correspondent

A number of haute couture dresses, lovingly rolled in ribbons and packed in trunks by their owner fifty years ago, were sold for up to five times their estimates at Phillips yesterday.

Mrs E.M. Wallis, of Tiverton, Devon, bought the costumes direct from the aristocracy, through advertisements in *The Lady* magazine, from 1926. When she moved house to Wartha Manor at the Lizard in Cornwall, she packed them in trunks for the journey. Subsequently, her

husband died, and she lost interest in them. They stayed in the stables in Cornwall until her daughter died last year.

The top lot yesterday was a 1920s Chanel brown chiffon dress enlivened with green and crimson silks. It was bought by the dealer Kamer for £3,400 against an estimate of £500. The Fashion Founda-

tion of Japan, a museum in Tokyo, bought at least 10 lots, including another Chanel dress in cafe-au-lait chiffon for £1,340 (estimate £150), while the Victoria and Albert Museum paid £1,045 for a 1920s black velvet cloak decorated with flower blooms in gold lamé. The sale totalled £52,000, with virtually everything sold.

Mallett, the English furniture dealer, has bought a new asset, in the form of the distinguished 19th century paintings dealer, Christopher Wood. Mr Wood is author of

the reference book, *The Dictionary of Victorian Painters*.

Mallett is part of the Sears Group, which also own shares in Aspreys, Garrard and Selfridges.

Mr Wood said he had sold his business "because the paintings I deal in have got more and more expensive. Whereas they used to sell for hundreds, now they sell for hundreds of thousands, even millions. This will enable me to deal in the top end of the market again."

Sotheby's had mixed fortunes at their Chinese art sales

in New York on Wednesday, with three record prices for respective artists in their paintings section, but a failure rate as high as 40 per cent for their ceramics.

There was one mighty price at the ceramics sale, of \$495,000 (£266,846) for a Tang Dynasty glazed pottery figure of a court lady. The price was virtually double what the same figure fetched in 1982.

The next highest price was £23,720 for a Han Dynasty pottery figure of an elegant horse standing foursquare.



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West German pit disaster

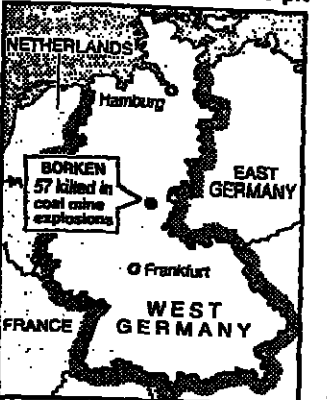
Mine rescuers stop search for survivors

From John England, Borken, north Hesse

Rescue teams at a coal mine here yesterday suspended their feverish search for 21 miners, still trapped underground following an explosion on Wednesday, after an expert said that the chances of finding any of them alive were "zero".

A crane was set up and rescue workers were switched to the task of bringing to the surface the first 11 bodies of a known 36 dead.

Their immediate priority was the recovery of seven corpses in a section of the pit



that was threatened by rising water.

The decision was seen as confirmation that mine officials had assumed that the rest of the 57 men were dead.

Only the weeping relatives of the men, caught by the blast at a depth of more than 300 ft, 14 of them Turks, still clung pathetically to the belief that their loved ones had survived.

Two Turkish men, Mehmet and Hasan Tuysuz, the son

and brother of one of the missing miners, stood in pouring rain at the pithead with tears in their eyes as they waited for news of him.

"We won't give up hope," they said. "But we can't stop crying." A group of Turkish women waited poignantly at the mine gates yesterday for a memorial service for the dead was held in the sports hall of this small country town, which 100 miles east of Cologne, near the East German border.

A young West German woman, the wife of one of the trapped men, later turned up with their two small children.

After only about half an hour, she turned away weeping bitterly. The children were also crying. She refused to speak to reporters, saying only: "My man is down there."

The mine disaster now appears likely to be the worst in West Germany since 1962, when 299 men were killed at a mine in Saarland.

The Borken blast, believed to have been caused by spontaneous combustion of coal dust, has also mystified experts because such an occurrence in a brown coal (lignite) mine would be unique in West Germany.

Dozens of vans brought in fresh rescue crews, who were relieved at quick intervals because of deteriorating conditions inside the mine.

Rescue teams searching for bodies wore breathing apparatus, and their faces were



A West German rescue worker weeping as he leaves the devastated colliery at Borken yesterday morning, where 57 miners are feared to have died in Wednesday's massive blast, believed to have been caused by spontaneous coal-dust combustion.

blackened after the explosion, it is a complete novelty to me. All the miners carried breathing equipment that filters deadly carbon monoxide from the air.

Many of the dead were found to have been wearing

their masks. But the "life savers" were effective for only an hour at the most, officials said. "There is a danger of more explosions from pockets of gas down there. The crews are exhausted, but they have

sworn not to stop until they have accounted for the last trapped man."

The authorities expected that the rescuers would complete this grim task for several days.

US ambassador's bodyguards spark off Beirut gunfight

From Robert Fisk, west Beirut

These are tense times on both sides of the Beirut "green line", and the events of the past 24 hours have demonstrated just how easily distrust and fear can turn into a shooting match.

In east Beirut the American Ambassador's bodyguards apparently provoked Christian Phalangist militiamen to shoot at the ambassador's car. In the west, a few hours earlier, an argument between Amal and Hezbollah militiamen prompted a brief gun battle which necessitated the intervention of Syrian troops.

The American Embassy here chose to say little yesterday about the incident in the east — understandable if the Lebanese police version of events is anywhere near

the truth. Police say Mr John Kelly, the ambassador, was being driven in convoy when, faced with one of Beirut's more ferocious traffic jams, his bodyguards resorted to the 10-year-old militia practice of shooting in the air to clear a path.

According to the police, an armed Phalangist patrol heard the shots and fired in the air to halt the convoy. The bodyguards started shooting at the Phalangists, who returned fire, putting one bullet into the roof of Mr Kelly's armoured Chevrolet, before it was realized that the affair was a misunderstanding.

There were conflicting versions of the shooting in the southern suburbs late on Wednesday night, when two pro-Iranian Hezbollah gunmen were wounded in the Chiyah district.

Hezbollah said Amal militiamen opened fire on them without warning, and that a third was kidnapped by Amal and three others saved by Syrian troops. The four-member ceasefire security committee — was asked by Hezbollah to investigate.

Amal said that the Hezbollah men had silenced pistols and that the shooting was preceded by an argument between the two groups. All of which shows that the inter-Shia war in the southern suburbs has by no means lost its sting.

The Syrian intervention was swift and apparently effective, although the newspaper *al-Safir* reported yesterday that the Syrian military command has now set up two separate army units — one in Bourj al-Barejneh, the other in Bir al-Abed

— to prevent any further violence. There are now said to be about 4,800 Syrian troops in the suburbs. Yet the Syrians remain outside the half-mile wide area in which most of the foreign hostages in Lebanon are believed to be held.

In west Beirut yesterday, Amal described as "untrue and totally baseless" a report in *The Times* which said that four hostages were believed to be in their hands. In fact, the *Times* report said that the men's abduction, in January of last year, was thought to be the work of an Amal renegade group.

● JERUSALEM: Major-General Amram Mitzna, the officer commanding the Central Front, which includes the occupied West Bank, yesterday visited the West Bank

village of Arouna, where villagers claim that Israeli soldiers caught two local youths and buried them with stones last month (David Bernstein writes). The visit emphasizes the seriousness with which the Army appears to be taking alleged excesses by soldiers.

Meanwhile, four Israeli left-wingers, who were members of a delegation which met PLO representatives in Bucharest last year, were convicted yesterday under a law prohibiting contact between Israelis and terrorist organizations.

● Student shot: A 17-year-old Palestinian woman, said to be a prostitute, killed a Jewish seminary student in Sahar gardens, near the Israeli Parliament in Jerusalem on Wednesday, police said.

French election campaign

Barre's merry pranks keep rivals worried

From Philip Jacobson, Lyons

Whatever we are to make of M Raymond Barre's campaign for Sunday's parliamentary election? Having kicked off with an unequivocal declaration that the French right is due for another mauling by the Socialists, M Barre has gone his merry and unpredictable way, apparently indifferent to events outside his own stronghold here.

Take the former presidential candidate's programme last night. While other national leaders of the right were striving to keep their increasingly demoralized troops going in the final stretch, M Barre had laid on an evening of jazz for the young people of Lyons.

As a personal contribution to the festivities, the round deputy for Lyons — who is certain to be returned to the National Assembly by the city's fourth district — agreed to confront his alter ego in the shape of "Barry" the bear.

With skilful mimicry of M Barre's voice (not to mention his ornate oratory), the latter has become a star turn in a show which is a French variation on *Spitting Image* that invariably attracts millions more viewers than the turgid party political broadcasts shown at the same time.

Very droll, especially from one whose campaign for the first round of the presidential contest back in April made much of the "solid and serious" virtues of the former Prime Minister in the dark, double-breasted suits. Not so

funny, however, for M Barre's conservative colleagues, as they contemplate the prospect of a Socialist landslide from beneath the banner of the newly formed alliance of centrists and neo-Gaullists in the Union for Rally and Centre (URC for short).

Faced with rumbling in the ranks about "defeatism" following his pronouncement that the recently re-elected President Mitterrand was right to dissolve the National Assembly in the wake of such an emphatic victory, M Barre has let it be known in his professional — some would say didactic — way that he was only thinking of France.

"I'm allergic to anything that could bring back the bad old days of the Fourth Republic," he declared. "The deals, the fixes... everything that weakens my country's political standing."

As often as not, M Barre's habit of speaking his mind meets with widespread public approval and, as he is fond of reminding the nation, his position on constitutional issues has been unwavering.

What infuriates his conservative partners, however, is M Barre's equally loudly proclaimed belief that the snap parliamentary election will not interfere with the sensitive process of *ouverture*, the broadening of the Socialist Government held out to the centre by M Mitterrand after he was returned to the Elysée Palace.

In the dismayed words of

one of the right's elder statesmen, "there goes our best electoral ammunition". It was proving difficult enough to chill voters' spines with the prospect of a France under Socialist domination without M Barre telling the world that *ouverture* is still on the cards.

Even in Lyons, solidly pro-Barre in the presidential contest, that raised a few eyebrows. Unthinkable as it sounds, there are those here who wonder if the great man is not playing some sort of elaborate game of his own against those he perceives, insiders say, as "naïve rivals" for the leadership of the traditional right after the election.

We are talking, after all, about a conservative politician who spent the last two years thundering against government by "cobabitation" under President Mitterrand and M Jacques Chirac, one who reminds the French about the importance of "resting true to our convictions and bawling for them", yet appears to approve of the decision of two prominent colleagues to jump ship and serve in the new Socialist Government.

In his most sonorous manner, M Barre will explain that the situation today is very different from that which gave rise to cobabitation in 1986. Nor, he insists, is he now urging what might strike many as a variation on the same theme without first securing safeguards in the shape of "some conditions corresponding to our convictions".

In a recent interview, M Barre rattled off a few areas of government where President Mitterrand would find the deputy from Lyons unbudgeable: education, taxation, national defence, New Caledonia, ISI. Cue, one suspects, for some hilarity at the Elysée, where "Barry" the bear is said to be a great favourite.

Meanwhile, the real M Barre continues on his laid back campaign trail, strutting off criticism from the right with newly minted phrases about the value of "constructive vigilance" and the dangers of "verbal sectarianism". To some observers here, he is in danger of losing his audience, though not his seat: barely 200 people turned up at a hall that seats three times as many for the only formal meeting on his home patch.



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41-45	2,876	2,519	592	6,267	2,876
46-50	2,826	2,484	679	6,100	2,826
51-55	2,785	2,440	763	5,992	2,785
56-60	2,741	2,401	850	5,922	2,741
61-65	2,709	2,373	940	5,922	2,709
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41-45	7,218	6,498	2,300	16,216	7,218
46-50	7,121	6,413	2,270	16,004	7,121
51-55	7,015	6,314	2,236	15,768	7,015
56-60	6,903	6,222	2,202	15,527	6,903
61-65	6,789	6,127	2,170	15,305	6,789
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71-75	6,704	6,197	2,170	15,305	6,704

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Barre's popular alter ego, "Barry" the bear (left), with M Barre's TV's satirical *Bibbe Show*.

THE MOSCOW SUMMIT

President hails his new friends after a slaying of dragons

From Michael Binyon, Moscow

Firing his final salvo of Russian proverbs, President Reagan concluded his five days of talks with Mr Mikhail Gorbachov yesterday by saluting the Soviet leader and his wife as friends, paying tribute to the Soviet people's warmth and hospitality, and hoping the summit talks had "slayed a few dragons".

In a brief farewell ceremony in the ornate St George's Hall in the Kremlin, Mr Reagan said it was fitting they should end their visit where it began. "I would like to think that our efforts during these past few days have slayed a few dragons and advanced the struggle against the evils that threaten mankind — threats to peace and to liberty. And I would like to hope that, like St George, with God's help, peace and freedom can prevail."

The President told his host and Mrs Gorbachov that their departure was an emotional moment for him and his wife. "We have been truly moved by the warmth and generous hospitality we have received from our Soviet hosts". They would always remember what he called the "faces of hope — hope for a new era in human history" they had seen in Moscow.

And he spoke of the "deep feelings of friendship" the

Reagans felt for the Soviet people.

"Troitsa ves les raskroitsa" he declared — "on Trinity Sunday, all the trees burst into blossom". The proverb referred to his arrival on Sunday.

Mr Gorbachov, in his farewell moments earlier, was

The International Bar Association has cancelled a discussion on human rights at its Moscow legal conference and protested to the London Soviet Embassy after eight lawyers, including four from Britain — Mr David Winter, Mr Anthony Hallgarten QC, Mr Jonathan Arkush and Mr David Halpern — were refused visas.

more restrained, indeed almost cool, and could not but mention his disappointment that more was not achieved at the talks.

"Our dialogue has not been easy, but we mustered enough political realism and political will to overcome barriers and divert from the way of dangerous confrontation."

"Though it goes much more slowly than is demanded by the situation... I have understood, Mr President, that you are willing to continue our joint endeavours. For my part, I can assure you that we will do everything in our power to move much more rapidly."

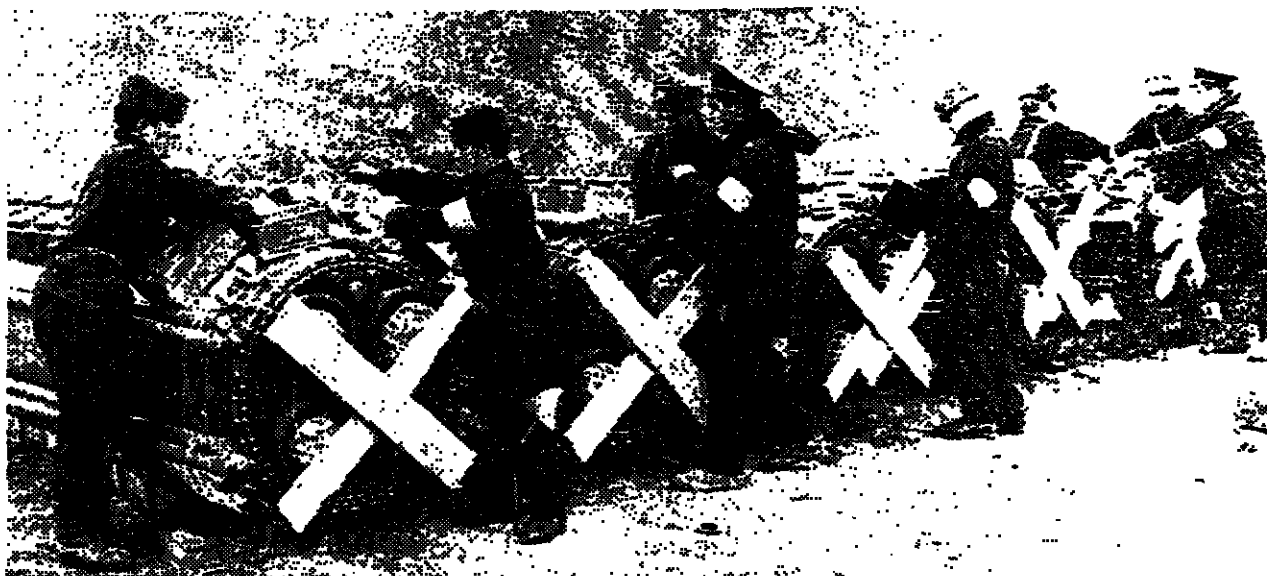
They then posed for photographs, shaking hands and smiling.

Mrs Nancy Reagan, whose relations with Mrs Raisa Gorbachov appeared to have deteriorated steadily throughout the visit, shook hands across a great distance, giving only a withering smile of politeness. She was heard to tell reporters earlier that their relations were now at "a Mexican stand-off".

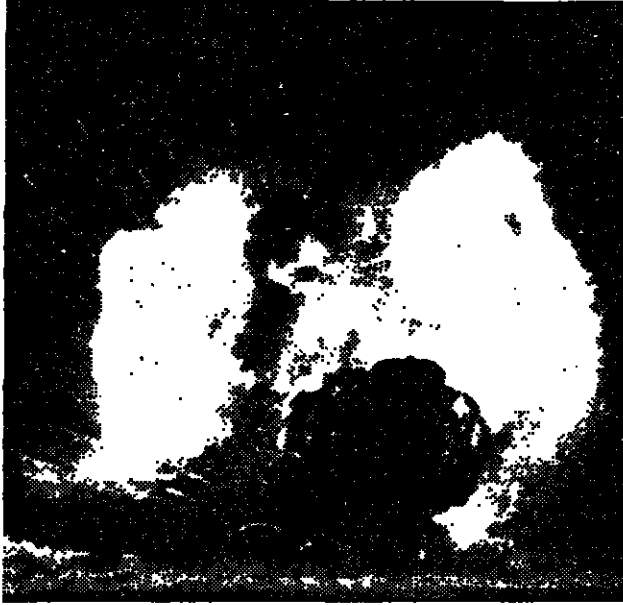
The Gorbachovs saw the Reagans off into their limousine, waved briefly, and turned briskly back into the Kremlin, while the armoured presidential car drove for the last time over the cobbles, under the Kremlin gate, and out to Vnukovo airport.

As on arrival, it was President Gromyko, the granite-faced 78-year-old head of state, who saw the Reagans off. The party watched as high-stepping troops from the honour detachment of Army, Navy and Air Force marched past briskly and in impressive timing, like human metronomes. The Hammer and Sickle fluttered beside the Stars and Stripes, the national anthems were played, and the Reagans then boarded Air Force One and took off into the bright summer sky.

Beginning of the end for missiles



Soviet engineers fixing explosives to short-range missiles at the Saryozek test site and, below, the weapons are destroyed.



By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

Britain's two cruise missile bases began preparations yesterday for the arrival within the next two months of the first Soviet inspectors.

Under the verification rules in the Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, now formally ratified by both sides, a team of 10 officials will be allowed from July 1 to roam around the RAF bases, at Greenham Common, Berkshire, and Molesworth, Cambridgeshire, to check on the number of missiles and launch vehicles deployed.

The Soviet inspectors carrying out the so-called "baseline inspections" will fly into Greenham Common, which is the treaty-designated entry point for Britain. There are 96 operational cruise missiles at the Berkshire installation and 16 at Molesworth. The Soviet Union will be entitled to check

on the spares also kept at the bases.

According to the Memorandum of Understanding signed in December, there are five spare cruise missiles at Greenham Common, 29 launchers, including five spares, and seven training launch canisters. Molesworth has two spare missiles, six launchers and seven training launch canisters. All will be removed by the Americans and returned to the US for destruction.

Greenham Common is expected to revert to a Nato stand-by role at the end of the three-year elimination period.

At Molesworth, only 16 of the planned 64 cruise missiles have been deployed. Yesterday a spokesman said that the base was preparing for a Soviet team to make its first check in July or August.

ANGOLA/NAMIBIA

Pretoria dismisses September deadline

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

South Africa made clear yesterday that it regards as unrealistic the September deadline set by Mr Gorbachov and President Reagan for resolving the problems of Angola and Namibia.

Mr R. F. "Pik" Botha, the Foreign Minister, said in Cape Town that there was categorical agreement during talks last month with Angolan Government representatives in Brazzaville, the Congolese capital, that the next round should again be held there.

Although Mr Botha did not react specifically to the deadline date of September 29 for resolving the Angolan and Namibian issues, he indicated firmly that South Africa regards that as matters to be dealt with on an African timescale, which is always slow.

● JERUSALEM: The Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, said yesterday he was not prepared to drop his opposition to an international Middle East peace conference in return for Soviet willingness to renew diplomatic ties with Israel (David Bernstein writes).

He was responding to Mr Gorbachov's statement on Wednesday that the Soviet Union would be "prepared to address itself to regularizing relations with Israel" as soon as an international peace conference was convened.

NATO'S ASSESSMENT

Shultz salutes the fourth encounter

From Richard Owen, Brussels

In the first considered assessment of the historic Moscow summit, Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, yesterday told the Nato allies that the fourth encounter between Mr Reagan and Mr Gorbachov had finally put superpower relations on a "stable and solid basis".

"The President and the General Secretary deserve a salute, so let me give them one," Mr Shultz said, raising his hand in a gesture of admiration.

Lord Carrington, the Nato Secretary-General, said Mr Reagan and Mr Gorbachov had "formed a friendship rare among political figures of any sort, and unprecedented between Soviet and American leaders". Their personal bond,

Lord Carrington said, was based on "respect, growing trust and affection".

This augured well for "further reductions of tension in the international atmosphere, particularly between the alliance and the Warsaw Pact," Lord Carrington said. But he warned the West not to relax its guard just because Mr Gorbachov "smiles and tells us there are no more bears in the Soviet Union".

Mr Shultz, briefing Nato before going to London to join Mr Reagan, said there had been progress in Moscow on a START agreement, which was possible by the end of the year. But it was "of immense importance" and had to be negotiated carefully to ensure that the result was "solid". He

added: "The only agreement anyone wants to sign is a good one."

Mr Shultz told Nato that the absence of a START deal meant arms control had not dominated the summit, and the two sides had been able to focus on "the deeper and more significant meaning of what Mr Gorbachov and Mr Reagan are putting together". The aim was to remove the causes of distrust, which lay not so much in weaponry as in attitudes, Mr Shultz said. The Soviet Union was changing "in possibly fundamental ways".

Noting that the superpower relationship was now far more stable and predictable than at the time of the first Gorbachov-Reagan summit in 1985, Mr Shultz identified a four-

part agenda as the framework for continuing dialogue: bilateral issues; arms control, where headway was being made on both START and chemical weapons; regional issues, on which there was a "maturing dialogue"; and human rights.

Mr Shultz confirmed that Moscow and Washington had set a target date of September 29 for a resolution of the Angolan conflict and a settlement in neighbouring Namibia.

● KUWAIT: Palestinians in the occupied territories will refuse to meet Mr Shultz during his Middle East tour due to start tomorrow, Mr Salah Khalaf, deputy PLO chairman, Mr Yasser Arafat, said (Renter reports).

AMERICA'S SUMMING-UP

Reagan vows folks back home

From Michael Binyon, Moscow

It was raining when President Reagan left Moscow — to Russians a powerful portent of safety and success at one's destination.

And Mr Reagan is indeed assured of a triumphant return home. For he had not only strengthened and deepened the rapidly improving relations between his country and the Soviet Union, but had also proclaimed the message of freedom with breathtaking daring in the heart of the empire he once denounced as evil.

Moreover, he had used his old charm to soften his image among ordinary Russians, assure Soviet leaders of America's peaceful intentions, and yet manage to keep in check any desire for hasty agreements or unwise concessions on arms control. That, at least, is how his five days of talks here will appear to many ordinary Americans.

They are not worried by the lack of summit results, as Mr Gorbachov is. They do not regard Mr Reagan's meetings with dissidents as tactics or ill-advised. Instead, they will applaud his courage in speaking out, warm to his championing of American values, and admire his firmness in resisting blandishments by Mr Gorbachov on troop reductions in Europe or compromises on the Strategic Defence Initiative.

Mr Reagan has, with his visit, effectively disarmed his right-wing critics. Far from

succumbing to the charms of his energetic host, he has demonstrated that he would not modify his beliefs in liberty, the free enterprise system and human rights for the sake of a good atmosphere or in pursuit of pragmatic agreements.

Reagan has been Reagan — he has not gone soft on communism.

By doing this, he has made a continuation of the dialogue

justification to extol the free-market system. He counted on Soviet disclosures of their own murky past to denounce the oppression of dictatorship while insisting on "more, always more" on human rights. He followed Mr Gorbachov's own admission that Soviet state relations with the Church had been a tragic mistake to press for full freedom of worship.

He was helped by some

taking offence. Mr Reagan was also helped by his personable manner, his simple affable warmth, which the Russians had not seen before.

Russians are indulgent people. They were willing to forgive his many bumbles and stumbles — the excruciating attempts to pronounce Russian proverbs, the nodding off at the Bolshoi, the forgetfulness and plain exhaustion of an old man. They have been used to leaders who left the details to their advisers. They did not judge Mr Reagan's lamentable press conference as harshly as the unforgiving White House press corps.

For them, Mrs Nancy Reagan was a charming and pretty guest. And Mr Reagan, in a vital televised encounter on Red Square, publicly retracted his wounding remark on the "evil empire".

The Americans probably never intended the summit to accomplish much. Mr Reagan may have dreamed of his place in history with a range of new treaties: US diplomats know that the most the summit could achieve was to keep the relationship ticking over. And, despite their public veneration, Moscow was forced to accept this. For the US side, the spectacle of the summit was the main triumph. It was a personal odyssey for their President, and a glittering piece of theatre in the heart of the Kremlin which brought out all the best of Mr Reagan's qualities as a head of state.

● He has proclaimed the message of freedom with breathtaking daring in the heart of the empire that he had once denounced as evil ●

and of arms control negotiations not only easier but inevitable for his successor. Indeed, Mr Reagan in his press conference virtually bound the next President to carry on the policy of détente — by any other name. Doing business with the Kremlin, Mr Reagan showed the right, does not mean giving up your values. It can even mean winning Moscow over to American ways.

It was a gamble, however, and one that only just succeeded.

Mr Reagan counted on Mr Gorbachov's urgent need for a success before the party conference to push his words and deeds to the limit of what his hosts would tolerate. He paid generous tribute to Mr Gorbachov's reform programme and used that as

good speechwriters. His defence of liberty at Moscow State University was one of the most eloquent and forceful speeches of his political career. His prepared remarks at ceremonial occasions were courteous, human, somewhat naïve, but very Reagan.

Not only did they show him in a softer light to the Soviet side, but they also went down well back home, as his advisers intended.

It could have all gone wrong. If Mr Gorbachov had given vent to the frustration and offence felt by many Soviet officials, a nasty tone would have spoiled it all. Mr Reagan made it clear that he intended no offence, even while giving offence. But he was straining all the personal links he had built with the Soviet leader to prevent him

THE VIEW FROM MOSCOW

Gorbachov takes middle road

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

With less than a month to go before the watershed All-Union Communist Party conference, it was an open secret that Mr Mikhail Gorbachov was looking to the Moscow summit to provide an outcome that would strengthen his position in the power struggle between reformers and conservatives.

The fact that he conspicuously failed to secure any key breakthrough on arms control and had to suffer painful public jibes from President Reagan on human rights was seen as the main reason why both he and other Soviet officials chose to voice disappointment at the outcome.

One senior Western envoy said: "It was a classic Soviet negotiating tactic, and one that we had already seen employed during the Iceland summit in 1986. For both domestic and international reasons, Mr Gorbachov tried manfully to lay all the blame on the Americans for the lack of progress that was made."

The fact that Mr Gorbachov's remarks were made during the first press conference given in Moscow by a Kremlin leader — broadcast live and unedited by Soviet television — was seen as proof that much of his sourness about the summit's alleged failure was delivered with his domestic audience, particularly his many conservative opponents, in mind. Just as President Reagan had the Jewish lobby and domestic right-wing groups in mind

during some of his more impassioned pleas for greater Soviet freedom.

The attention now being devoted to the Soviet Union to the party conference, the first of its kind since 1941, was reflected during the press conference, when much more interest was generated by a question about this week's unprecedented interview with the BBC of Mr Boris Yeltsin, the reformer who was sacked

last November as the chief of the Moscow city party, than a score of others on the main summit issues.

Mr Gorbachov was quick to signal that there was no threat to the future of Mr Yegor Ligachov, his No. 2 and the conservatives' mentor, thus sending out the unmistakable message that the Soviet leader is prepared for a form of compromise.

The importance which Mr Gorbachov attached to his answer was highlighted yesterday when Tass devoted a whole page of its four-page summary of the 105-minute press conference to the question and reply.

Mr Gorbachov — by openly hinting that Mr Yeltsin, aged 57, one of his most promising former protégés, may soon face further political humiliation as a result of his de-

mands that Mr Ligachov be sacked (later unconvincingly denied in a second US interview) — was letting it be known he is taking the middle line between those opposed to reform and those frustrated that it is going too slowly.

During the press conference, Mr Gorbachov was unable to disguise his frustration at not achieving the desired summit triumph, although he was careful to

defend his decision to hold it. Despite the protestations about American unwillingness to introduce a phrase about peaceful co-existence into the final 24-page communiqué and other complaints about Washington's stance, Kremlin analysts were convinced that the first visit to Moscow by a US President for 14 years will have bolstered Mr Gorbachov's domestic standing.

One European diplomat said: "He has been shown repeatedly on television across the nation in obvious command of the situation, looking younger and more competent than his American counterpart. That, plus his readiness to speak openly on the normally taboo subject of Kremlin in-fighting, will have done him nothing but good."

The welcome which Mrs Nancy Reagan received in

Leningrad, where crowds of more than 100,000 came out into the streets, and the comments of many Soviet citizens, emphasized that the policy of superpower détente and continuing dialogue has powerful grassroots support.

A Moscow engineer said: "It was very important for us to be able to see President and Mrs Reagan for ourselves. In a way, it gave us reassurance that he is human like us, and put some flesh on the bones of the arms negotiations."

One onlooker in Leningrad said, after cheering Mrs Reagan's 18-vehicle motorcade: "The human touch is important. We wanted to see her for ourselves and to have the chance to show her that, as an American, she is welcome."

Of course, not all Soviet citizens were equally overawed by the pomp and ceremony, which severely disrupted traffic in Moscow. As one of the many weary travellers camping out in the capital's cavernous Kievsky railway station told a Western interviewer: "Yes, Reagan is a human being, but excuse me, I have been on that road for five days. I have come from the north and I am trying to get to the Ukraine."

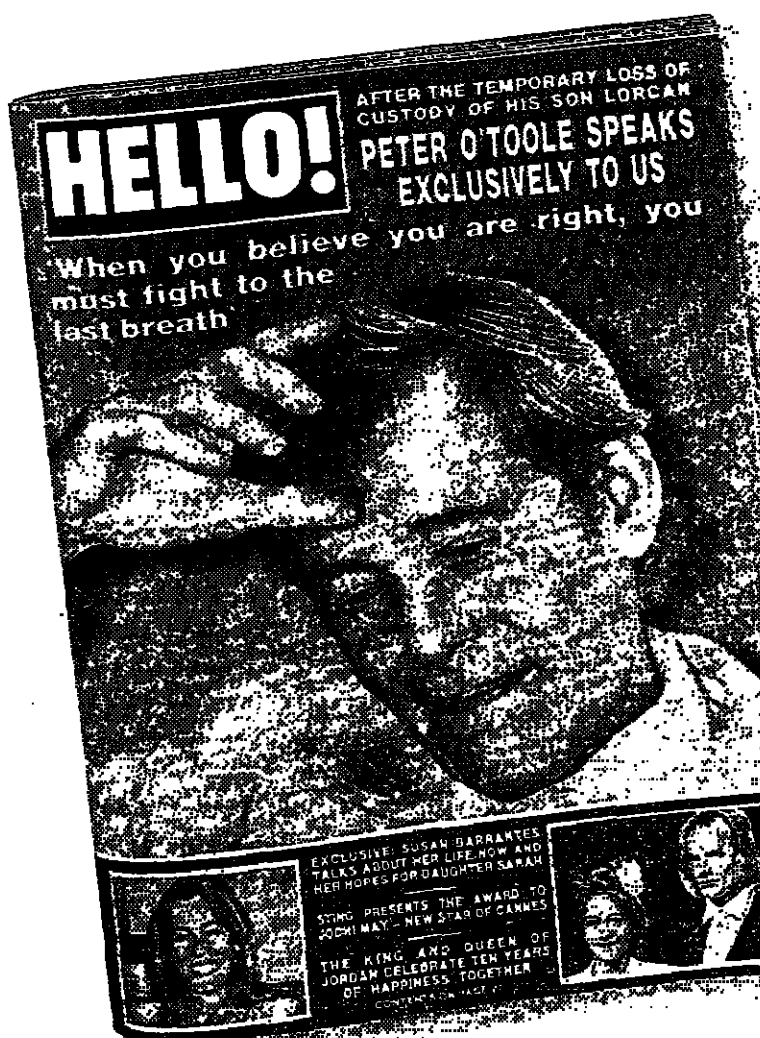
Ironically, the one political danger of the summit came from the blanket exposure it gave to his elegant wife Raisa, whose popularity in the West is matched at home by widespread resentment, where first ladies traditionally play a much more secondary role.

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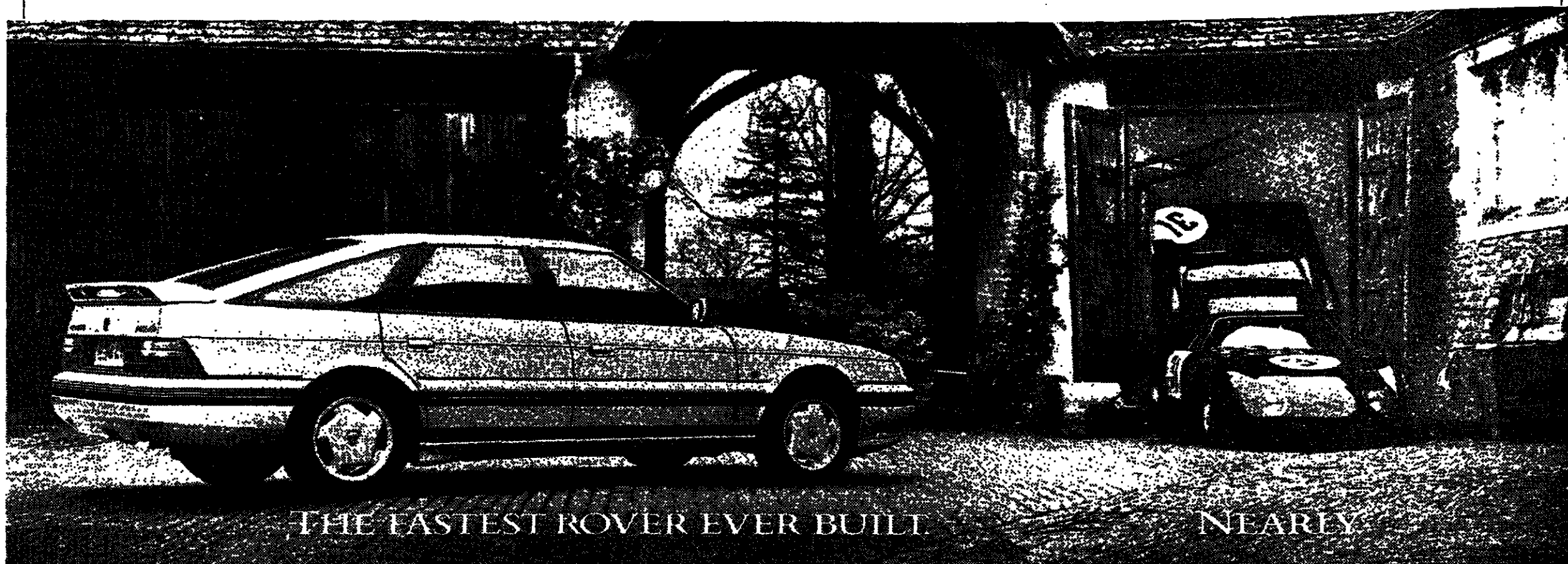
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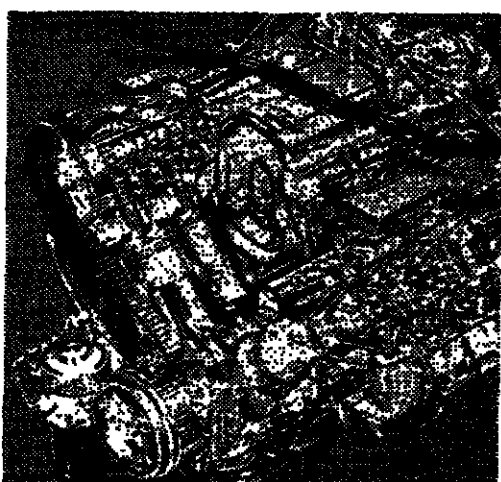
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The White House contest

Dukakis plays up image of man for all reasons

From Charles Bremner, New York

Who is Michael Dukakis? The Massachusetts governor is all but certain to be anointed Democratic candidate in next week's final primary contests in California and New Jersey, but for much of America he remains a puzzle.

The strategists from the rival camps are now scrambling to paint the full Dukakis portrait, and the result will largely dictate his electoral fate against Mr George Bush in November.

Though the Democrats are fighting euphoria after opinion polls put Mr Dukakis 10

percent ahead of Mr Bush, they acknowledge that he owes much of his success to caution, stamina and a hefty dose of electoral *faute de mieux*.

The country at large has a hazy image of the Boston technocrat, beyond knowing he is steady, honest, cool, cerebral, colourless and deliberately unglamorous.

According to the pollsters, half the electorate has yet to form an opinion of Mr Dukakis and campaign workers are reporting quotations from local Democratic supporters who still have trouble with the name. "Mr Dukis" and "Mike Dukakis" are the common variants.

According to a *Washington Post-ABC* poll, Mr Dukakis benefits far more from public aversion to Mr Bush and declining confidence in Presi-

dent Reagan and his policies than from his own appeal.

The same negative factors helped ensure his elimination of the Rev Jesse Jackson, the candidate who stirred the greatest antipathy as well as the strongest devotion in the Democratic field.

The strongest Dukakis card is his record for managerial competence and, as the autumn campaign gets under way, the candidate and his image-makers will play the quality for all it is worth. The frail governor may not weave dreams like President Reagan, but he is second to none in the mastery of detail and *Realpolitik* required for negotiation, they say. This, according to the conventional wisdom, is what the country wants after the hands-off bungling of the Reagan presidency.

His first big test as negotiator will come early, when he picks his vice-presidential running mate, probably well before the Atlanta convention next month. His first goal must be to bring Mr Jackson "on board" and avoid alienating his black supporters, who account for 11 per cent of the



The Democrats' election dilemma, as portrayed by Mariette of The Atlanta Constitution.

national electorate. Until this week, it was assumed that Mr Jackson had no interest in the No. 2 slot.

Neither the party nor his own future prospects would benefit from this, Mr Dukakis, the thinking went, had to find

a way of incorporating enough of the progressive Jackson ideas to ensure his support, while steering clear of a platform that would prove unpalatable to the electorate at large.

The favourites for running

mates were Senator Bill Bradley (New Jersey), Senator John Glenn (Ohio) and Senator Sam Nunn (Georgia).

But on Tuesday, Mr Jackson raised the stakes by announcing that he had "earned" the right to be

considered for the vice-presidential nomination — though he did not indicate whether he would accept it.

The Bush camp is preparing to pounce on everything it can use to paint Mr Dukakis as a liberal. With his long career in public office, there is little left to reveal about Mr Bush. His best chance is to join in the defining of Mr Dukakis and prove to the working-class Democrats, who defected to Mr Reagan in 1980 and 1984, that the Massachusetts Greek would not deliver the kind of low-risk change they are said to be looking for.

Mr Bush, isolated at his Maine retreat this week, has been shrugging off the poll results, saying that familiarity with Mr Dukakis will breed voter contempt. "When I see one poll saying that two-thirds of the public think Dukakis is more conservative than I am, I say, 'Hey, what in the world goes on here?' I guarantee you nobody will say that when this campaign is over."

Mr Lee Atwater, the Bush manager, is devising a way of "digging up the dirt on the Duke" while trying to avoid the appearance of over-negative campaigning. And the

"Bushies" will seek to puncture his record as worker of the "Massachusetts miracle", the central Dukakis theme according to which he managed his state into high-tech nirvana.

They will try to cast him as soft on crime — citing his opposition to the death penalty and his allowing convicts out of jail on weekend leave — and as an inexperienced naïf on foreign policy.

The Dukakis people are aware that he has managed so far to be a liberal to liberals and a moderate to moderates. They now must keep his appeal as broad as possible while fleshing out Dukakis the man and showing how he will deliver.

Above all, he will have to come up with specifics on his plans to help the poor and improve the quality of life without raising taxes.

Success has done something to transform the candidate already. He is telling more jokes, dancing more sriaki, relaxing more in public. As Mary McGroarty, the veteran *Washington Post* columnist, puts it, he is behaving like a winner. The Greek background he long played down as a handicap is now expected to become an asset in California and the north-east.

The search for the Dukakis personality has brought some experts to conclude that he is the representative of a generation that has not yet found its voice at the top of politics — that of the 1950s, now dubbed the silent generation.

"If you understand the silent generation, you understand Mike Dukakis," says Mr Richard Gaines, author of a Dukakis biography. "He's never deviated from that era's faith in consensus, its optimism about our role in the world, or its belief that the system works."

Sri Lanka election violence kills three

Colombo (AFP) — Three people, including a policeman, were killed yesterday, and bombs exploded outside polling stations, despite a tight security cordon involving more than 15,000 police and troops for elections in central and western provinces.

Police said that a constable defending some 14 election officials drove off about five activists of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) before he was shot. Troops killed two militants in another clash with JVP saboteurs.

Ban demand

Hanover (Reuters) — Politicians in Lower Saxony have demanded the banning of the neo-Nazi Free German Workers' Party after a Jewish cemetery in Hildesheim was daubed with swastikas and anti-Semitic slogans.

Gurkha attack

Delhi (AFP) — Gurkha militants have ambushed a security patrol in the north-eastern hill district of Darjeeling, seriously wounding a paramilitary trooper, the Press Trust of India reported.

Rebels to die

Moscow (Reuters) — Two Afghan rebels have been sentenced to death by a Kabul court after being found guilty of murder, robbery and endangering the country's security, Tass said.

A lucky dip

Istanbul (Reuters) — Two Turkish children swimming off a Mediterranean beach have found a board of 1,093 6th-century Byzantine coins. Officials did not say whether they would be allowed to keep any of the coins.

Mexico's rulers run scared

Opposition claims cheating as poll battle warms up

From Alan Robinson, Mexico City

As the six candidates race into the home stretch of the most hotly contested presidential election in Mexican history, the political Establishment appears to be running scared and attempts have been made to nobble some of the opposition entries in one way or another.

There have been several violent interventions by Mexico's numerous police organizations that opposition parties have labelled as "repressive". The right-wing National Action Party (PAN) candidate, Señor Manuel Clouthier, led protest meetings outside half-a-dozen commercial radio stations that refused to sell him time. He

Mexico City (AFP) — At least three people died and five were injured in clashes between pro-government and anti-government peasant groups in the central Mexican state of Hidalgo. Police said another five peasants were kidnapped by the Cardenista Front, a dissident faction of the ruling party.

claimed that the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) had put pressure on the broadcasters.

The PAN also claims to have been cheated out of a local election at Mouchkera, in the state of Coahuila. Señor Clouthier's pledge of civil disobedience to protest at "electoral robbery" has so far held up an announcement of the result.

The campaign of a PRI renegade, Señor Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas, who fronts the many-faceted alliance known as the National Democratic Front (FND), has taken off in a manner the PRI finds alarming. He has been drawing very large crowds in several areas and two recent polls show him running neck-and-neck with the PRI candidate, Señor Carlos Salinas de Gortari in the Federal District.

What is scaring the PRI and

its candidate is the likelihood that most of the electorate will stay away from the polling booths. In recent elections, abstainers have far outnumbered the voters for both the PRI and its opposition. Señor Salinas plans to barnstorm through 60 cities this month in an attempt to get the vote out before finishing his campaign on July 2 in Mexico City. The election will be held on July 6.

Over the last two months several marches by students and independent unions have been subject to intimidation or actual violence.

Most observers think the new strong-arm tactics are the result of pre-election nerves in the ranks of the Establishment.

Señor Salinas de Gortari has been getting between 80 and 90 per cent of total press coverage as the PRI spent lavishly on advertising, much of which appeared in the guise of stories. Television has been even more biased in favour of the official candidate.

● TUCSON, ARIZONA: The Mexican Defence Minister, General Juan Arevalo Gardoqui, and a former Mexican state governor received millions of dollars in bribes from drug traffickers, according to an affidavit filed here in a drug case (AFP reports).

The affidavit, made public this week in support of a US government case against Jaime Javier Figueroa-Soto and nine other alleged drug traffickers, alleged that US Customs agents let loads of marijuana pass through a border station. A Drug Enforcement Administration informant alleged in the affidavit that General Arevalo Gardoqui received a \$10 million (\$5.5 million) bribe in 1984 from an alleged partner of Señor Figueroa-Soto to assure protection of marijuana and poppy fields in the Mexican state of Chihuahua.

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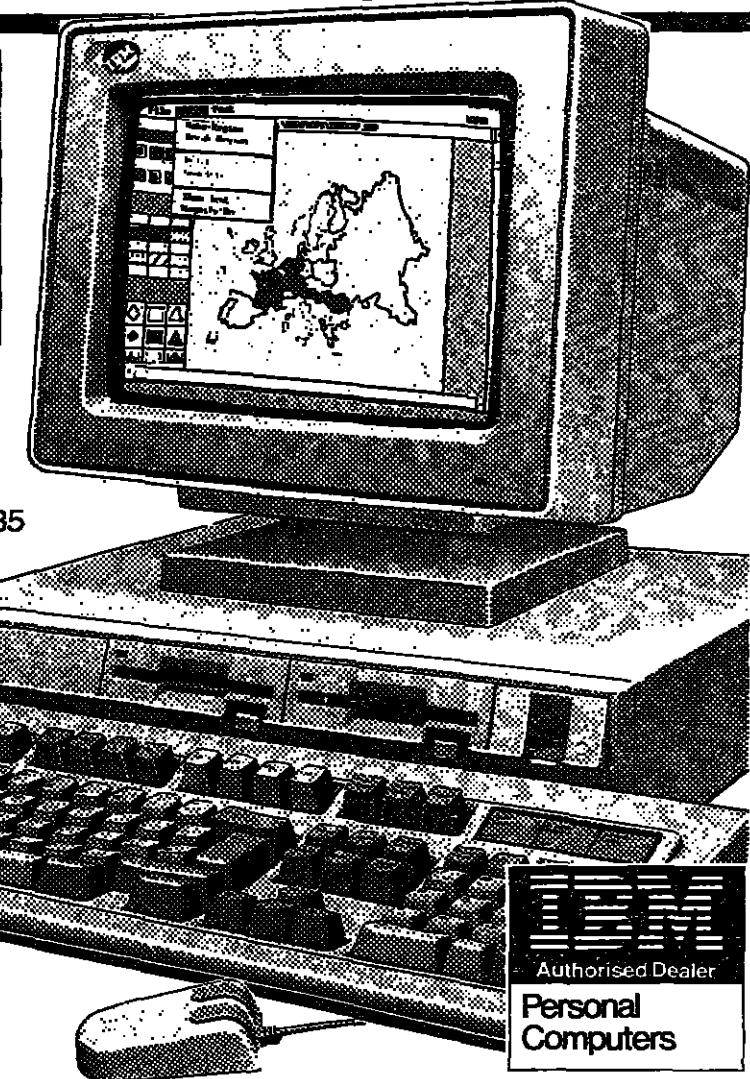
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Mineral deal by 33 nations

Strict checks agreed as way is opened to Antarctic mining

From Richard Long, Wellington

After six years of talks, Antarctic Treaty nations yesterday agreed on a far-reaching convention that would allow mineral mining on the frozen continent and in its surrounding seas.

But a rigorous approval process, beginning with a consensus decision and progressing through a series of stages in approval will be required before any mining application can be given the go-ahead.

Mr Chris Beeby, a Deputy Secretary of the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and chairman of the series of meetings, said the precautions were "the most stringent safeguards ever negotiated in an international treaty".

Although the Antarctic is believed to be rich in oil, coal, copper, gold and uranium, its forbidding climate and the strict environmental protection safeguards that will be imposed on any exploiter make big developments unlikely for many years.

Mr Beeby said he was certain exploitation would not start this century, and probably not till minerals reached three times their present value. He was speaking after

the final session of the Antarctic Treaty parties reached agreement on all details yesterday, after a month-long session.

While the 33 countries represented — among them Britain — signed the agreement, it does not become binding until ratified by 16 individual governments.

Greenpeace protested outside the conference venue, complaining that the fragile ecology of the Antarctic would be irreparably damaged by a big oil spill and that the area should be maintained as a "world park". Ms Lena Hagelin of Sweden, a spokesman for Greenpeace International, said environmentally conscious nations like New Zealand had buckled under pressure from the pro-mining nations, such as West Germany, Japan, the US, Britain and France.

Mr Beeby agreed that New Zealand had changed its position taken in 1975, when it also sought world park status for the Antarctic, but he said it was clear that other nations were not prepared to exclude the prospect of mining taking place eventually.

The new agreement prohib-

its exploration and development until all members of a 20-nation commission have agreed and stringent control requirements have been met. There are three levels of approval, with any nation being able to apply a veto.

After prospecting begins, it would be subject to monitoring by a regulatory committee, stringent inspection provisions and suspension for any failure to comply with the protection criteria. Mining operators are required to be sponsored by their governments and to guarantee restoration in the event of any environmental damage. Failure leaves the responsibility with the sponsoring nation. Non-compliance would mean the suspension or cancellation of that nation's rights under the treaty.

Mr Beeby said the minerals convention was not so much a framework for Antarctic mining as a prohibition on exploitation till rigorous protection requirements had been met.

He said treaty members had agreed that the 1975 informal moratorium on prospecting and exploration would continue till the minerals convention had been ratified.

Japan's imperial gardener



Royal roots: Emperor Hirohito of Japan, in gardening boots and hat, gently placing one of six rice seedlings he planted yesterday in a paddy field at the Ise shrine of Tokyo's Imperial Palace compound. The annual Shinto rite seeks divine blessing on the national harvest.

London alert in search for Fiji arms smuggler

From Christopher Morris, Sydney

Interpol and Scotland Yard were last night alerted in the hunt for a London-based international arms dealer accused of attempting to smuggle to Fiji 12 tonnes of weapons seized by Australian Customs men four days ago.

Australian police named the man they want to question as Mohamed Rafiq Kahan, aged 46, who is alleged to have arranged the shipment of the weapons from North Yemen via Sri Lanka and Singapore for militant Indians seeking to oust Fiji's military ruler, Brigadier Sitiveni Rabuka.

According to the police, Mr Kahan arrived in Australia nine days ago on a false passport and uses several aliases on his gun-running exploits around the world, including Ralph Mohamed Rafik, Ralph Kenneth Mohamed Rafiq and Peter Tunks. He has criminal records in three countries and has been twice deported from Australia — the last occasion in July, 1986 — as well as from New Zealand and Canada.

Police described Mr Kahan as "dangerous" and said he was not working alone. A group of mercenaries, including at least two former members of the SAS, are also being hunted in connection with the arms shipment. They reportedly flew from Melbourne to Fiji a week ago and have not been seen since.

The police yesterday accused Australian Customs

men of bungling the investigation to catch the arms smuggling gang, claiming they did not raise the alarm until the morning after the shipment was discovered, allowing Mr Kahan to escape from the Sydney hotel where he was staying.

They said that Mr Kahan, a Fijian-born Indian, spent five days at the hotel organizing the trans-shipment of the arms to Fiji.

But police also disclosed that at least two other huge arms shipments to the South Pacific region did slip through Australia. The first, two years ago, was to Papua New Guinea and the second was to Fiji only two months ago. That shipment coincided with Mr Kahan's last illegal visit to Sydney. Both shipments were about the same weight and were described as heavy machinery, federal police said.

Fijian Indians deny any involvement in the arms shipment. Mr Don Dunstan, of the Fiji Australian Association, last night accused Brigadier Rabuka of secretly stockpiling weapons.

"He's been seeking arms and tried to buy supplies in Singapore and Korea," he claimed. "The only group known to be wanting arms is the military."

Mr Dunstan said Brigadier Rabuka blamed the Indians in order to safeguard the continuation of Australian financial aid to Fiji.

Britain gets £500,000 bill after Spycatcher defeat in Canberra



Mr Peter Wright: A toast in champagne at his home.

From Christopher Morris Canberra

The dismissal of the British Government's final appeal yesterday against publication in Australia of Peter Wright's controversial book, *Spycatcher* — still banned in Britain — was a comprehensive legal defeat and a very costly one.

The seven judges in the Australian High Court in Canberra were unanimous in rejecting the appeal, leaving the Government with no further legal recourse to pursue.

They also awarded costs against the Government, a massive legal bill in excess of £500,000 of taxpayers' money.

Peter Wright was not in court to savour the moment of his greatest triumph. The 72-year-old former

M15 officer stayed at his farmhouse in Tasmania and celebrated quietly with his wife with a toast of champagne when his lawyer, Mr Malcolm Turnbull, telephoned details of the court victory. "I'm thrilled, absolutely thrilled," he said. "But after the stress of the past 18 months I'm glad it's all over at last."

One immediate benefit for Mr Wright is the lifting of court injunctions which had frozen the royalties of *Spycatcher*. He is a millionaire now, since in Australia the hardback edition of the book has sold over 250,000 copies, and more than 1,500,000 copies have been sold worldwide.

By coincidence, a paperback version of the book was launched

in Australia on the same day as the appeal verdict, guaranteeing Mr Wright an even bigger fortune in royalties. A delighted Mr Turnbull commented: "It's a seven-nil victory. I just hope Peter Wright now spends a few shillings improving the shack he lives in down in Tasmania. He's an old man and he's not a very materialistic fellow."

Mr Turnbull said he personally had been surprised at the tenacity and dogged determination of the British Government in fighting the case to the death. "This case has probably been the most notorious I've ever been involved in," he added.

For Heinemann's, the publishers, Mr Sandy Grant, the managing

director, explained: "Three years ago we were told we had a 1 per cent chance of winning, so we couldn't be happier having a unanimous decision today in our favour."

"Mr Wright has taken a very positive and dogged view all the way through. He's like Mrs Thatcher — very determined — and he never became depressed about it. He hasn't spoken well of Mrs Thatcher recently although he's not naturally someone who would be opposed to her."

Not so happy about the verdict was Britain's representative in court, Mr Malcolm Dougall, the Deputy British High Commissioner to Australia. "We're naturally very disappointed. We fought

long and hard in Australia but the court found against us. The British Government feels very strongly that a former Crown servant has a duty of confidentiality."

In their 28-page judgment, the seven judges closely examined the British Government's case that Mr Wright had a fiduciary duty not, without authority, to disclose or use any information obtained by him while employed in the security services otherwise than for the purposes of the Crown.

It was of some significance that Mr Wright was bound by the Official Secrets Act and had accepted an obligation of confidence.

However, they argued that it would be a source of potentially vast detriment to Australia's

national interests and foreign relations if Australian courts were under a common law obligation effectively to exercise jurisdiction.

The judges said *Spycatcher* contained material concerning the operations of the British Security Service which might well sustain a finding that publication was in the Australian public interest "because the Australian Security Intelligence Organization (ASIO) has a close and co-operative relationship with the British Security Service."

They maintained the action be classified as a governmental interest, and "as such the action falls within the rules of international law which renders the claim unenforceable."

Leading article, page 17

How well do you know your garden?

A major new series in
The Sunday Times Magazine:
The Making of The English Garden.



Starting this Sunday in The Sunday Times Magazine there's a fascinating new series for the garden enthusiast.

The Making of the English Garden explores all the influences that have made our gardens look the way they do.

Packed with superb colour photographs and illustrations, it uncovers the rich and strange history of the flowers and shrubs we take for granted — plants brought back to this country from all over the world.

Soil, topography and climate are all brought colourfully to life by expert writers



who examine every component of the garden, and all its aspects from design to plant genetics.

No ordinary gardening book, but a six-week chronicle of discovery which will show you how to read your garden like a history book.

Don't miss this completely free pull-out supplement to the Magazine: collect Part One — the first of six parts — this Sunday. And you can take advantage of a special offer on a handsome binder to turn this superb series into a book.



THE SUNDAY TIMES

STARTS THIS SUNDAY

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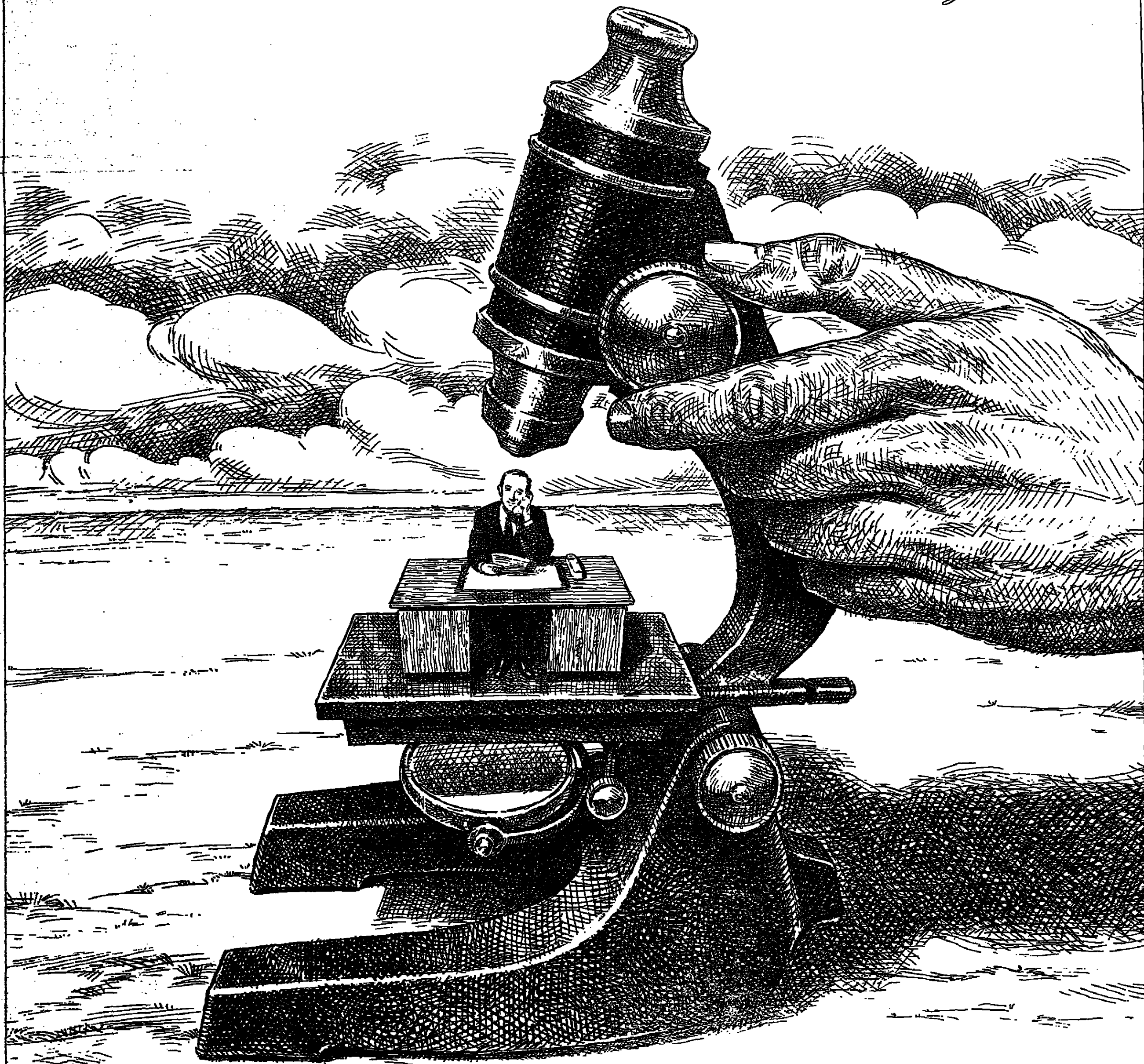
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We'll focus our attention on him immediately.

ECCD



SPECTRUM

Best years of their social lives?

Undergraduate life is an education in itself. And like the official tutorials, social life can vary in content and quality from college to college

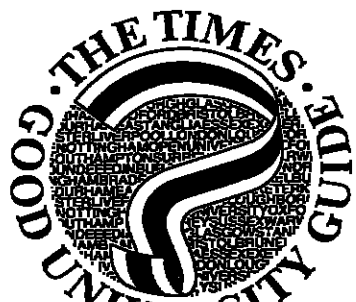
It is as likely to embrace real ale and sit-ins as champagne and May balls. We look at the very different social realities prevailing at Exeter and Middlesex

Part Five: A class apart

Welcome to Willsworthy Farm. It is a sunny, windy Sunday afternoon, and Julian is dressed for the occasion in a striped shirt and tie, chinos, and a pair of brown suede brogues. "Would you like to look around?" Julian introduces the bedrooms with their views of hilly countryside, the wardrobes full of striped shirts, the sitting-room decorated with champagne bottles. "As you can see," Julian says, opening the door on to a weedy farmyard, "it's the perfect house for a lot of people and a lot of parties."

Since they moved out of rooms at Exeter University a year ago, and into this humbly furnished but spacious retreat, 20 minutes from the campus, Julian and Greg and Patrick and Rupert and Marcus and Guy have become known for their parties. There was the Toga one ("please bring a bottle of white sparkling wine and some shaving foam"), for Julian's birthday, and a medieval banquet in one of the barns, and some paying ones - "just to cover the cost of the drinks".

At Exeter, people such as Julian and his friends, who own cars, and hold bucolic parties, and went to



public school, are known by students who do not and did not, as "wellies". Their numbers are estimated at only 500 to 600 of the 4,500 student population, but as one embittered young man remarked, hunched in the Exeter Student Union: "They are the most visual individuals and it just creates a really nasty atmosphere."

At Willsworthy Farm, the affable Julian observes that there are indeed two groups, "public school and otherwise" - "But I don't go round the campus saying, 'which school did you go to?'"

"Oh yes you do," says Adam, who, like everyone at Willsworthy Farm, went to public school. "When I came here I thought that because we'd be living together and working together, the differences would start to cloud over - but that doesn't happen. People tend to group together."

"That is sad, but true," Julian says. "I'd heard through the grapevine, being at public school, that the social life was good - you fail Cambridge, so you go to Exeter." Julian's "social life" did not include the activities, discos, concerts and three annual balls organized by the Student Guild.

Along one of the drives through Exeter's leafy, hilly campus, boys



Occupation forces: a group of students at the Middlesex Polytechnic during a sit-in at their office, which they took over last month in protest at plans to close the All Saints centre

in a Polo GTi are racing a girl in a striped T-shirt and a Volkswagen beetle. They shout and hoot and swerve with abandon, disregarding both the library, where others are studying for finals, or the pedestrians plodding towards lunch in either Cornwall House (CH), which has steel furniture and games machines, or Devonshire House (DH), where the Conservative Association, Exeter's largest society, is selling ball tickets. Julian is there too, playing with a yo-yo. "People actually say they are DH or CH," says Emily, the student social secretary. "I personally don't ever go to CH to socialize."

On "free and easy" night at the

Ritz, a vast Tottenham dance hall, the students of Middlesex Polytechnic arrive in black jeans, black leggings to drink white wine and lager and wait for the "alternative" music to come on. "If you want to get off with a student, go to Ritz," said Sarah, a second-year from All Saints, one of the polytechnic's eight scattered sites. Obviously there was also the All Saints disco - but the social possibilities of Middlesex have declined steadily, with mounting student protests against the closure of All Saints, which is to be absorbed into a larger site in order to save polytechnic money. Last month there was a week's occupa-

tion. "We don't have a social life here, we just have sit-ins," said Sarah, on her shift in the occupation "Press office". She showed off the dimly lit refectory, thick with the sound of Princes, and the smoke of peaky looking students who had been sleeping on the library floor.

There were rumours about threatening bailiffs, about phone tapping, but in the press office the students were ecstatic with "solidarity". "It's been wonderful," said Zoë, a second-year with imminent exams. "I've really enjoyed it, apart from the threats, and not getting any work done." The next night

the police came, then security guards, then a seven o'clock curfew.

"We're not far enough from London to have a captive audience," says Geoff Ellis, the Middlesex students' union entertainments manager. "And the main problem is having so many sites, because every event has to appeal to the character of those students. The graphic students go for arty events, the social sciences go for something more independent." Sarah waved goodbye from the picket line: "The atmosphere here is really important. People are not obsessed with being bright young things, but we all have a good time."

At Willsworthy Farm, a row of Peugeot 205s and Renaults are being driven off to the beach, to other houses, to the campus library - "Don't get the impression we don't do any work," says Greg. "You got to sacrifice so much." Julian agrees. "But after the exams we've got lots of parties."

Catherine Bennett

MONDAY

Europe - will the universities be ready for 1992?

DUNDEE to KEELE

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1580

ACROSS

- Cockney hat (6)
- Talent spotters (6)
- Pinching (7)
- Stick to (5)
- Untamed (4)
- Prolonged feud (8)
- Last Attorney General (6)
- Israel language (6)
- Bophuthatswana siege town (8)
- Arrange in twos (4)
- Assent (5)
- Astonishing (7)
- Slot machine discs (6)
- Tenacious (6)

DOWN

- Half score (3)
- Russian SST designer (7)
- Wicked (4)
- Ships supplier (8)
- Not capable (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1579

ACROSS: 1 Baby boomer 8 Anzania 9 Evolve 11 Stretched 13 Ridge 14 Kedge 16 19th age 18 Span 21 Stair 22 Oversee 23 Impersonal

DOWN: 1 Bombard 2 Bang 3 Black sections 4 Overtake 5 Epocha 6 Gait 7 Meddle 12 Kedge 13 Relish 15 Deposit 17 Chasm 19 Need 20 Lean

A to Z

DUNDEE

Dundee DD1 4HN (0382 23181). Inquiries: Admissions Officer.

Location: Modern, compact campus close to city centre.

History: Founded in 1882 as part of the University of St Andrews. Own charter in 1967. Undergraduates: 3,500 (M/F 5:4).

Main areas of study: Medicine, Science, Arts and Social Sciences. Most popular courses are Medicine, Architecture, Science, Arts and Social Sciences. Length of degree course: Three years ordinary, four years Honours. A few subjects five years. Special features: Excellent laboratory facilities and computer resources. New main library under construction.

Social life: All first-years of fered accommodation in Halls of Residence. University houses and flats provided for most second and third-year students. Sports well catered for. A dozen golf courses within easy reach.

Student view: "All the benefits of campus life, as well as being based in the heart of a bustling city. Friendly."

Famous graduates: Dr William Nicol (Director-General of EEC Council of Ministers). Open day: June 1.

DURHAM

Old Shire Hall, Durham DH1 3HP (091 374 2000). Inquiries: Deputy Registrar.

Location: Mostly close to cathedral. Science Departments south of the river. History: Founded in 1832 by the Bishop and Dean and Chapter of Durham. Undergraduates: 4,360 (M/F 5:4).

Main areas of study: Engineering, Physics, Maths, Geography, with Law, English, History, Politics, and Economics. Length of degree course: mostly three years, some courses four.

Special features: College system modelled on Oxford and Cambridge. Applications have to be made to one of the 12 Colleges as well as to an academic department although the residential support service for students with impaired hearing. A four-year BA in primary education. Science Park.

Social life: All but two colleges are mixed and offer accommodation for all undergraduates. A large central SU building and each college offers its own unique facilities. Small theatre in the city and nearly 60 acres of playing fields.

Student view: "The word most often associated with politics at Durham is apathetic. Looked at cynically, this could be because most students are from relatively privileged backgrounds. Also a sense of 'what difference will it make anyway?'"

Famous graduates: Harold Evans, Hunter Davies. Open days: Visitors welcome by arrangement.

EAST ANGLIA

Norwich NR4 7TJ (0603 56161). Inquiries: Registrar.

Location: Concrete and glass, on 270 acres parkland on the outskirts of Norwich overlooking

the River Yare. History: Founding charter in 1861. Undergraduates: 3,477 (M/F 5:4).

Main areas of study: Economic and Social Studies, English and American Studies, Modern Languages and European Studies. Popular areas Law, Environmental Sciences, Accountancy and Biological Sciences. Length of degree course: three or four years.

Special features: Phonetic equipment with intonation on a BBC computer, a computing centre with a microprocessor lab, and an audio-visual centre. Author Malcolm Bradbury on the staff. Centre for research into climatic change and environmental issues. Science Park.

Social life: First-years guaranteed rooms. Lively SU and film society. Multi-gym and many other sports facilities. Norfolk Broads provide opportunities for water sports. Student view: "Emphasis is placed on continuous assessment and small group teaching, demanding participation and response. Buildings offset by parklands and proximity to vibrant city of Norwich."

Famous graduates: Jenny Abramski (editor Radio 4's Today), Ian McEwan. Open day: July 6.

EDINBURGH

Old College, South Bridge, Edinburgh EH8 9YL (031 667 1011). Inquiries: Schools Liaison Officer.

Location: Most facilities situated around George Square near the Old Town. Science campus two miles south. Free minibuses service between the two.

History: 400th anniversary was in 1983. Undergraduates: 8,660 (M/F 1:1).

Main areas of study: Law, Medicine, Engineering, Sports, popular courses are Social Sciences, Veterinary Medicine, Arts, Medicine. Length of degree course: three to five years.

Special features: Research centre for information technology and artificial intelligence. Unique course in Wildlife and Fisheries Management and has a Chair of Parapsychology. Excellent computer facilities.

Social life: Most first-years have university accommodation. Flat-hunting competitive and expensive. SU impressive. Activities for all tastes. Sports, drama, music and journalism all popular and the city really comes alive in August for Arts Festival. Good holiday jobs.

Student view: "Accommodation can be quite expensive. Halls of residence are mainly modern and well-kept. There is generally a good relationship between the university and town."

Famous graduates: Sir James Barrie, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Rt Hon David Steel, R L Stevenson. Open day: June 3.

ESSEX

Wivenhoe Park, Colchester CO4 3SQ (0206 873668). Inquiries: Admissions Officer.

Location: Parkland campus in the middle of valley running down to River Colne. Six tower block residences dominate the landscape.

History: Founded in 1962. Royal Charter in 1965. Undergraduates: 2,569 (Male/Female ratio 3:2).

Main areas of study: Largest fields Electronic Engineering, Law, and the Social Services. Good reputation for Comparative Studies and Philosophy, and History and Mathematics are also popular courses. Length of degree course: three or four years.

Special features: Broad-based first-year courses which centre on a school of study. These allow most students to leave final courses open until the end of the year. Japanese Centre. Well-stocked library.

Social life: All first-years guaranteed a single study bedroom. All second-years, most third-years have to live off campus. Theatre, small art gallery, golf club. SU runs radio station and popular bar.

Student view: "The academic standards are excellent in most departments, so don't be put off by comparatively low A level points requirement. Colchester is an expensive area to live in."

Open days: September 11 and 12. Applicants are welcome to visit.

EXETER

Exeter EX4 4QJ (0362 263263). Inquiries: Admissions Officer.

Location: One mile from the city centre in lovely campus overlooking the Exe Estuary. School of Education half a mile from the city centre.

History: Started as a School of Arts in 1855. Royal Charter 100 years later.

Undergraduates: 4,350 (M/F 5:4).

Main areas of study: Sciences, Arts, Social Studies and Education. School of Education is one of the largest in the country. Multi-disciplinary engineering degrees are very popular. Strong reputation for Law and Accountancy. Length of degree course: three or four years.

Special features: Modern computing facilities. Centre for Industrial and Geophysical Fluid Dynamics and the Institute of Population Studies.

Social life: Virtually all first-years and many second and third-years accommodated on campus. Northcott Theatre on campus is a regional centre for the Arts and has its own professional company. Sport well-catered for. High proportion of public school leavers.

Student view: "Best concentration in the South West of sports facilities better than the rest of town, cheap bars and facilities of a generally higher level than elsewhere. Lively and friendly."

Famous graduates: Rob Ackerman, Paul Jackson (The Young Ones), Tony Speller MP. Open days: June 18 (Faculty of Education). Visitors welcome by appointment.

GLASGOW

Glasgow G12 8QQ (041 339 8855). Inquiries: Registrar.

Location: 14-acre campus overlooking Kelvingrove Park and one mile from city centre. Some buildings have a Gothic grandeur.

History: One of the oldest and largest in UK, founded in 1451. Undergraduates: 9,949 (M/F 5:4).

Main areas of study: New courses include Product De-

sign Engineering, Technological Education, Physiology and Sports Science. The most popular courses Management Studies, Film and TV Studies, Law, and Veterinary Medicine. Length of Degree course: three to five years.

Special features: Many undergraduates can undertake a research project as part of their final Honours assessment. Computing facilities are being upgraded centrally and throughout departments. Excellent library facilities. Science Park.

Social life: Many students live at home. Priority on-campus to first-years' and overseas students. Hearty, macho image has changed. Three discos, half a dozen bars, biggest debating union in the UK.

Famous graduates: Joseph Lister, James Watt. Open day: September 21, plus various departmental open days.

HERIOT-WATT

Riccarton, Edinburgh EH14 4AS (031 449 5111). Inquiries: Admissions Officer.

Location: Some departments remain at the city centre, but by 1991 all will be at Riccarton, a 275 acres parkland campus, apart from the Edinburgh College of Art.

History: Started as the Edinburgh School of Arts in 1821. Royal Charter in 1966. Undergraduates: 3,480 (M/F 1:1).

Main areas of study: Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Business Organization, Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Actuarial Mathematics and Statistics, Architecture. Length of degree course: three to five years.

Special features: Renowned technological institution. Unusual courses in brewing and interpreting. Pioneer of a University concept of a University re-

search park. Science park. Social life: Too few Hall places to accommodate all first-years. Flats can be expensive. Main SU building is still in the city centre. Free buses are laid on. Good sports facilities on the new campus.

Students view: "The campus is very picturesque and has some excellent facilities... exciting place to study."

Famous graduates: Archy Kirkwood MP. Open days: September 6 and 7.

HULL

Hull HU6 7RX (0482 466100). Inquiries: Admissions Officer.

Location: Academic buildings on campus two miles outside Hull. Halls of Residence and some of the student houses are in Cottingham, village two miles from university.

History: Founded in 1928, charter in 1954. Undergraduates: 4,200 (M/F 1:1).

Main areas of study: Law, Accounting, Economics, Electronics, Chemistry. Among popular courses: Law, Accounting, English, Drama, Geography. Length of degree course: three or four years.

Special features: Brynmor Jones Library said to be excellent. Every student is able to learn a language. Unusual new courses such as Robotics and Communications, Scandinavian Studies, and Indian Politics. Science Park.

Social life: All first-years are guaranteed accommodation. Halls which form the award-winning Lawns complex have been described as models of student accommodation. One of the friendliest universities. SU in Cottingham is social focus. 150 societies, 50 sporting clubs, renowned art collection.

Student view: "Lawns has a sociable if sometimes rowdy reputation and is a pleasant

and fun way of meeting a large number of students in your first year."

Famous graduates: Roy Hattersley MP, Roger McGough. Open days: June 8, June 23, July 5, July 13.

KEELE

Keele, Staffordshire ST5 5BG (0782 712000). Inquiries: Senior Tutor.

Location: Two miles west of Newcastle-under-Lyme among rolling hills.

History: Formerly University College of North Staffordshire, charter in 1962. Undergraduates: 2,882 (M/F 1:1).

Main areas of study: Most courses are joint honours, most popular combinations include Law, English or Psychology. Length of degree course: three or four years.

Special features: Foundation year of the four-year course covers a wide range of subjects, emphasis on cross-disciplinary studies.

Social life: All undergraduates are expected to live on small, friendly campus. SU runs a good entertainments programme. Day nursery run for children of students and staff.

Student view: "Good entertainment and a lively nightlife. Potteries a very interesting place with a friendly population."

Famous graduates: John Goding, Ian Taylor MP. Open days: October 15.

Student views are taken either from the Alternative Prospectuses or Student Union spokesmen.

Compiled by SARA DRIVER
Monday:
Kent to Liverpool

ERRATUM

There is something wrong about this reproduction of a well-known painting. What is it?

The first week of The Times's daily competition to test your general knowledge ends today. The questions will continue every weekday for the remaining two weeks of the Good University Guide.

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Answer: _____

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Address: _____

The closing date for all entries is last post on Friday, June 24, 1988. A prize of a Z88 personal portable computer will be awarded to the first correct entry opened for each day's question. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. The winner will be announced in The Times on Friday, July 1.

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SALE 2 THE BOXLEY HOUSE HOTEL, BOXLEY VILLAGE, MAIDSTONE KENT on Sunday 5th June at 11.30 am PREVIEW FROM 10.30 am ON DAY OF SALE

SALE 3 THE ENGLISH SPEAKING UNION, DAYMOUTH HOUSE, 37 CHARLES STREET, LONDON W1 (adjacent to Grosvenor Hotel) on Sunday 5th June at 3.30 pm PREVIEW FROM 2.30 pm ON DAY OF SALE

SALE 4 THE LYTRE HILL HOTEL, PETHWORTH ROAD, HASLEWORTH SURREY on Sunday 5th June at 5.30 pm PREVIEW FROM 4.30 pm ON DAY OF SALE

AUCTIONEERS NOTE: Owing to the urgency of realising immediate cash, these items are being offered under instructions to ensure complete disposal. APPOINTED AUCTIONEERS: Marshall 7 Mendon, 28 Poultry Lane, Hemstead, London NW5 1NH. Tel: 01-734 7765. PAYMENT: Cash, cheque and all major credit cards.

ERRATUM

SATURDAY

Raffaello

accumulated

Pundit supreme

SPECTRUM

Taking off the rake-off

The Yorkshire tour operator who has forced a tightening of rules on surcharges still regards travel as a hobby, reports Andrew Lycett

The 130 passengers on Dan Air flight DA675 from Gatwick to Menorca this morning can relax in their seats and spend a little extra on duty-free gins and tonic, happy in the knowledge they have no surcharges to pay. The aircraft has been chartered by Marshall Sutton (Yorkshire), a tour business run by Brian Sutton, the Beverley travel agent whose exertions on behalf of his customers have forced the Association of British Travel Agents (Abta) to tighten its rules on surcharges.

For a life member of Yorkshire cricket club, for which he played as a colt, that parenthesis in the name of his tour company is important. His associated travel agency is called simply Yorkshire Travel. He says people call from London, saying they want to book through him because they feel safer with a Yorkshire connection. Officially Beverley, eight miles from Hull, is in North Humberside. But Sutton insists on giving his address as East Yorkshire, despite the Post Office ordering him to take the offending words off his franking machine.

That Yorkshire cussedness has stood his customers in

good stead. His involvement in two sides of the travel business gives him clout. As a tour operator, he is able to compare excessive surcharges on fuel, currency and variable expenses levied on passengers by other operators, with the often reasonable increases in fares asked by airlines.

Sutton quotes an example from 1982, around the time he first became aware that operators were making such charges. One company was asking its passengers for £19.75 extra on flights to Gibraltar, when Sutton was flying the same route with the same aircraft (Boeing 737) and being charged just £5.40 more by the airline.

Surcharges surfaced in 1981-82, when the price of the pound dived against the dollar. They eased off in 1984-85, before reappearing, according to Sutton, towards the end of 1986. This time the problem was generally the reverse: the pound was appreciating, but fuel was paid for in dollars. Sutton finds it ironic that when the pound falls the operator quickly passes on increases, but when the currency rises, there is no such eagerness to pass on savings.

The villains of the piece, he believes, are generally the

bigger tour operators, who, in their eagerness for income and market share, keep their brochure prices to the minimum and look for their profits in surcharges. One company, which made £22,000 through surcharges over a two-month period, was fined just £2,000 by the association, leaving its profit intact.

Until now, Abta rules have

required operators to "justify" surcharges. But when Sutton, on behalf of his travel-agency customers, has asked the big companies to break down their costings, he has often met with lack of co-operation.

"It is not only unfair to the public," Sutton says, "but also to honest brokers. We may feel forced to charge £500 for a holiday someone else puts in

his brochure for £480. How can we compete? But the person paying £480 can often end up paying around £500 by the end." He believes one reason that Thomas Cook recently decided to drop Mediterranean resorts is that it refused to play this game. "I checked out dozens of their surcharge invoices, and they were all fair and square."

Sutton came into the travel business by the back door. A chartered surveyor, he worked for seven years on various projects in Cyprus. He and a partner hired an aircraft to bring Cypriots to the 1966 World Cup. They filled the aircraft on its return with villa owners on the island. This was so successful that the following year they did the trip

three times and, the year after that, six. "I got the bug. It was so interesting. I just ran it as a hobby. In four years, we only ever had four unsold seats. That must be some kind of record."

He returned to Yorkshire in 1971 to set up a quantity surveying business — which he still runs. After nine months of looking for suitable premises,

he found a building in Beverley. But it was too large for a professional office. "I didn't know what to do with the rest. So I started a temporary travel agency."

For a while he concentrated on Cyprus. But when the civil war started in 1974 he started to look elsewhere — Menorca, Gibraltar, the Costa del Sol. "We started the seat sale business in Britain," he says (by which he means the practice of offering flights to overseas villa owners). Today Marshall Sutton (Yorkshire) arranges 11,000 flights a year from six British airports for villa owners, his chosen market. It turns over £2.5 million.

Despite his travel business occupying him seven days a week, he still looks on it as a hobby. That way he retains his enthusiasm to serve his customers. Indeed he says he has to, for that is his business advantage over his larger competitors.

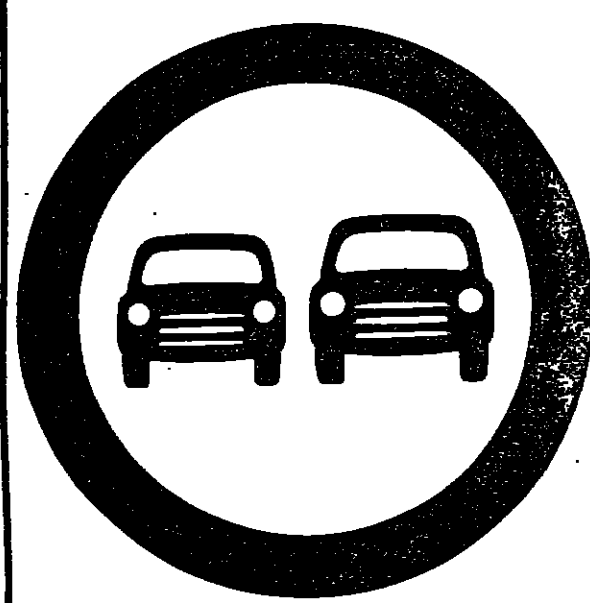
"We set our sights on ensuring a good 80 per cent of our customers come back each year," he says. "That way, if nothing else, we save a heck of a lot of money by not having to advertise."

Sutton has been asked to stand for office in Abta and other industry bodies. But he has refused. "Frankly, it would bore me stiff," says the man who once bought a suit but has never worn it. "I prefer to do something unusual, demanding and challenging."



Cheaper flights for all: with restrictions on surcharges, there will be less chance of a nasty surprise after a holiday has been booked

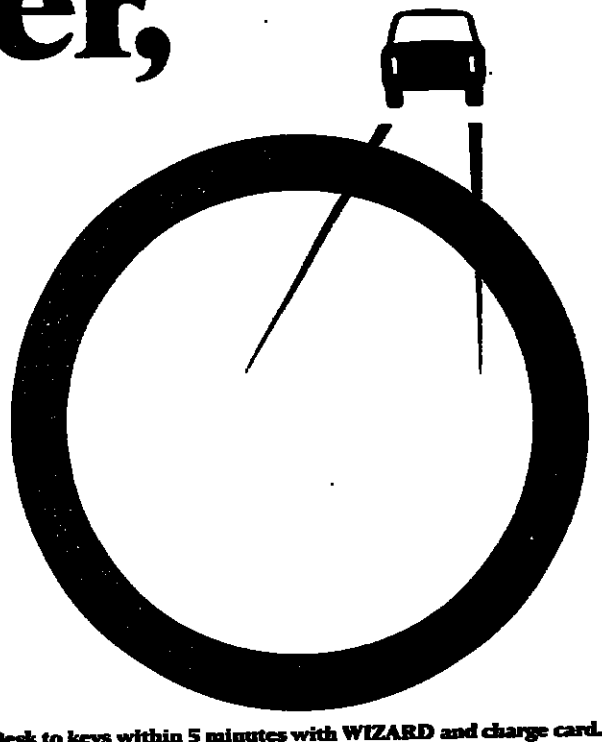
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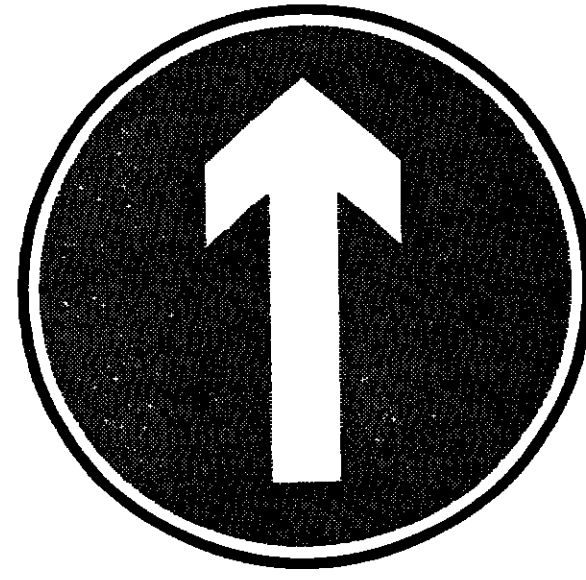


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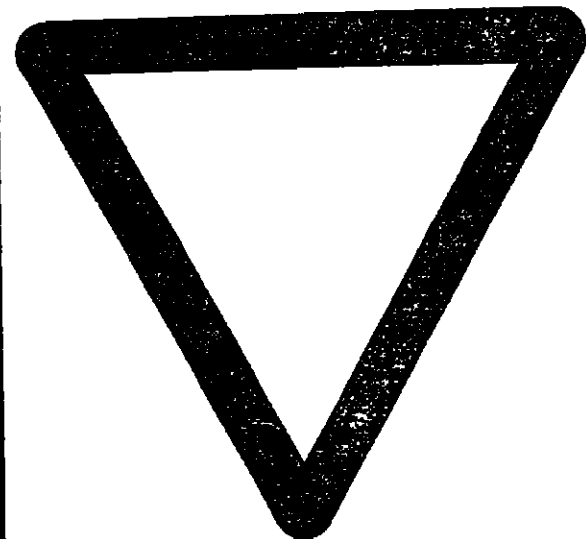


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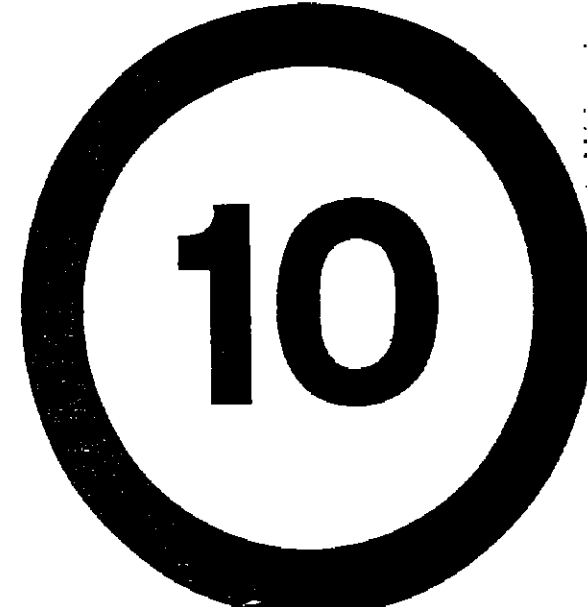
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FINDINGS

A weekly series on research

HISTORY

The *Spycatcher* case and the death of Kim Philby underline the passing of a world of espionage far removed from today's clinical spy satellites. In the current *History Today*, Nicholas Hiley shows how the dead-letter box and the spy with a guttural accent were the stuff of the beginnings of MI5. He disproves recent allegations that no German spy network existed in Britain at the beginning of the First World War. It did, was quite effective — using British servicemen with German relatives — and was smashed by Vernon Kell's infant counter-espionage organization. Kell even persuaded Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, to push up proceedings against a Royal Navy stoker, so that security cover would not be "blown". *John Crossland*

ARCHAEOLOGY

Chinese scientists have developed a method of cleaning ancient bronzes with lasers. "Bronze disease", a green counterpart of rust, has corroded the surface of many Chinese bronze ritual vessels and weapons. Once established, it spreads quickly, obliterating delicate detail. Until now, bronzes were cleaned mechanically or chemically, which often caused further damage. The laser strips the green coating without harming the surface, and creates a thin oxide film that inhibits further

corrosion. More than 30 relics have been treated so far. *Norman Hammond*

GEOLOGY

Colonization of the barren Martian surface may be feasible if a new theory suggesting that water exists just below the surface is correct. By studying the debris patterns on the slopes of Martian volcanoes, geologists at Lancaster and Hawaii universities have concluded that explosive eruptions must have taken place, charged with water and carbon dioxide. The new findings suggest that there are probably still huge quantities of water up to 1.5km below the surface. There is no reason why future colonists could not tap this supply. *Simon Elzy*

METEOROLOGY

Knowing whether air masses flow over or around mountain ranges like the Alps affects both the understanding of local weather phenomena such as the Mistral and the improvement of large-scale weather forecasting. As part of an international field study called Alpex, scientists at Yale University have examined the flow patterns created by the Alps. Surprisingly, they found that a stagnant layer of air formed close to the surface. This should enable computers to produce better models of the atmospheric motions created by mountain ranges. *W.J. Burroughs*

SATURDAY

Portfolio — PLUS NEW — Accumulator At least £8,000 to be won

Pundit supreme



In the last 25 years of George Bernard Shaw's long life, the flow of words did not falter. If anything the wit grew sharper, the mischief-making more adroit. Tomorrow we publish a selection from a new volume of his indefatigable later correspondence — often with people he had never met — which shows a remarkable mind at work and play.

TIMES DIARY

MICHAEL HESELTINE

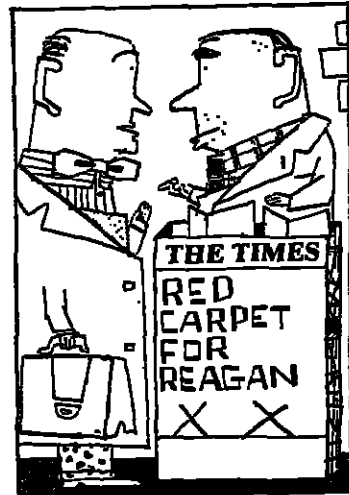
Moscow

I have never seen the Iron Curtain since, but the invitation from the BBC to comment on the Moscow summit for *Newsnight* was too good to pass up. The journey out provided its own manifestation of glasnost: the medical director of Broadmoor was heading the same way to lecture at the Serbsky Institute in Moscow. This is the first invitation to a Western psychiatrist to enter Soviet mental hospitals since Anatoly Koryagin defected and blew the whistle on the treatment of dissidents.

As we drove into the city centre the rush-hour traffic was queuing to leave town. The congestion is not yet of our proportion but it is moving in that direction. The streets are meticulously clean. There is no litter: but then there is little to drop. Fast-food restaurants, consumer choice and the packaging industry are not yet a significant feature of Moscow society.

It was once said you could not give baths to the workers because they would put coal in them. In the Rossiya Hotel, which housed many of the journalists covering the summit, they had turned the baths into filing cabinets. NBC alone took a staff of 75, much fortified by bags of fruit from Marks and Spencer, flown in by British Airways. Fruit is hard to get in Moscow.

BARRY FANTONI



'An apt colour, given the circumstances'

The Tsars built palaces outside St Petersburg. In scale, grandeur and content they were designed to surpass the best in Europe. Peter the Great built the first, Peterhof, on the shores of the Baltic looking towards Finland. He lived in a simple long, low house which he called Mon Plaisir, sleeping in an austere little bedroom and dining in his Delit-dit kitchen — proof, our young guide tried to persuade us, that the great Tsar was a man of simple taste. Hard to believe, when viewing the magnificent gravity-fed fountains and cascades which he himself designed to tumble down into a long canal leading to the sea. In the sun the gilded figures and urns which splashed out sparkling water dazzle the eye. The originals — in solid gold, we were told — were melted down by the Nazis.

At Tsarskoye Selo, or Pushkin as it is now known, Catherine built a palace for herself, and one for her son Paul at nearby Pavlovsk. All the architects she employed were foreign, including a Scotsman, Charles Cameron. These palaces signify more than mere monuments to Tsarist Russia; they are a terrible warning to the privileged who forget the price of excess. Shamelessly destroyed by the retreating Germans, they marked the limit of Hitler's advance on Leningrad. After the war they were meticulously restored by Stalin and his successors. Some representative samples of the contents have been removed to St Isaac's Cathedral in the heart of the city. Today the rooms look as the Tsars knew them.

"When did you decide to rebuild?" I asked. "In 1943 when we first saw the ruins." It was a reply that had more about it of Russian pride than communist ideology and from all over the country today it is Russians who queue to rediscover their history. But then what is history in a country which has just cancelled its secondary history examination because the text books are propaganda and have to be rewritten?

On the Aeroflot flight back to Moscow, Muslims, peasants from Samarkand with their luggage in plastic buckets, and soldiers from many races portrayed the complexity — fragility? — of Mr Gorbachev's empire.

This weekend the Russian Orthodox Church plays host to religious leaders from across the world. A thousand years ago it separated from Rome. Forty miles east of Moscow in Zagorsk — the Russian Orthodox Canterbury or Rome — the candles have flickered, except for a brief period under Stalin, ever since. There was a timelessness and certainty about the expressions on the faces of those old peasant women: while so much in Russia today is uncertain, they are troubled by no doubts.

Everyone is talking about change: there are even jokes about it. In order that all can make a contribution to perestroika the price of beer has been doubled from 50 kopecks to 1 rouble. A man orders his beer and pays his rouble. He is surprised to receive 50 kopecks change. "Why?" he asks. "We have no beer!"

I think it may turn out to be more complicated than that.

By staying out of the European Monetary System, Britain has experienced both a much higher rate of growth and a steeper reduction in inflation than countries constrained by the rules of the EMS. It is best for Britain not to get enmeshed in such a dubious system with such a dismal record.

The EMS was designed to fix members' exchange rates to the Dmark. Suppose that sterling were absolutely fixed, therefore, at 3 DM per pound for one year from June 1, 1988, what would be the consequences? First, if there are no exchange controls, the interest rates on financial assets of one year's maturity or less must be approximately the same in the two countries. If, per contra, interest rates were 8 per cent in Britain and 2.5 per cent in Germany, then everyone would change one-year financial investments from Dmarks to sterling — confident that before June 1, 1989, they could change the sterling, augmented by 8 per cent, at 3 DM to the pound.

Arbitrage would ensure an enormous borrowing of Dmarks and a big demand for sterling. But this would tend to increase interest rates above 2.5 per cent in Germany, and to reduce rates below 8 per cent in Britain until they were nearly equal. Suppose, therefore, this form of monetary integration results in interest rates of (say) 4

per cent in the UK and 3.5 per cent in Germany, would this not be a "good" thing for the UK?

Of course, sterling borrowers would claim this as a splendid reduction in costs, and a great boon to the economy. But you can have too much of a good thing. At rates of 4 per cent, a sharp increase in Britain's inflation, fuelled by capital flows from Germany, would be certain. (I am rather less certain of the consequences of the Chancellor's recent "shadowing" of the Dmark, together with the Louvre interventions. I suppose they are likely to increase British inflation rates by 1 to 2 percentage points from 1989.)

As both credit and money supply explode in the United Kingdom, everyone would expect the ensuing inflation. On "realignment" day, June 1, 1989, there would have to be a substantial devaluation of sterling. As realignment day approached, the markets would see that they could make a killing on the certain fall of sterling. With interest rates of 3.5 per cent in

Germany and 4 per cent in Britain, there would be a switch to borrowing sterling and buying Dmarks, so this would sharply increase short rates for sterling — indeed, as experience in France has demonstrated, such short rates may rise to hundreds of per cent. After the realignment on June 1, 1989, British rates will again fall to near German levels.

This roller-coaster of interest rates, combined with massive floods of hot money chasing one-way bets against step-wise sterling devaluation, is, of course, as familiar as it is an unhappy memory. Proponents of EMS, however, will reject this characterization. First, exchange rates are not really fixed, either in the short run (because of the +/-2.25 per cent, or for Italy +/-6 per cent limits) or in the longer run (where there have been 11 realignments, many of which have been unilateral "surprises"). But either the EMS constraints are effective, or they are not. If they are not effective, then the EMS is a cipher and an excuse for jolly meetings. If they

are effective, pseudo fixing of exchange rates will generate the same sort of, albeit muted, pressures on capital movements and on interest rates.

Secondly, in Italy and France, there are restrictions on domestic and international financial flows which hamper such arbitrage. If Britain joined the EMS, and was determined to stay in, the massive capital movements, so much greater with sterling than with the franc or lira, would increase the pressure to re-impose exchange controls, or perhaps to introduce import surcharges — promises of 1992 notwithstanding. Many people, the Labour Party included, would look favourably on a return to exchange and trade controls to "bring British funds home to create jobs for unemployed Britons."

Yet another pressure, so reminiscent of Bretton Woods, is the reluctance adequately to devalue or re-value currencies. France, for example, has suffered for many years from a franc that, in spite of periodic realignments,

remains over-valued relative to the Dmark. This has certainly assisted in France's fight against inflation, but it has also depressed French growth to less than half that of the UK and other countries outside the EMS. A sad model for the UK.

The great claim for EMS membership is that, granted we do not realign too much and too often, it would anchor our inflation to the low rate of Germany. That is so. But the EMS and even German monetary policies are a-changing. The French and Italians have proposed that there be more "symmetry". Basically, they want shared control over the Bundesbank to pursue a more inflationary policy and reduce the pressure on the franc and lira. I wonder if those who wish Britain to anchor sterling to the Dmark will be so keen, as increasingly the EMS comes under the influence of France and Italy.

Both Germany and France — and Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission — can see considerable advantages to

them in Britain joining the mechanism. Britain, at the end of 1986, held more net foreign assets than Germany and could add substantially to the reserves of the system. One can also see why Britain, with sterling as a major international currency, would relieve some of the internal pressures on the EMS.

France hopes to enlist Britain's aid in modifying the Bundesbank's hard line ("symmetry") and the Germans hope Britain will take some of the heat off French complaints against Dmark domination.

M Delors, France and Germany warn that if Britain does not join the EMS soon, Britain will be left out of the planning for a Central Bank for Europe. I cannot imagine why joining the exchange rate mechanism could affect such planning arrangements in any way.

Even more bizarre are those allegations that, unless sterling ceases to be "parochial", London's international financial centre will wither away. But in the 1970s what could have been more parochial than the floating Hong Kong dollar, yet that colony grew at a record pace to be the third largest financial centre in the world.

Sir Alan Walters, Professor of Economics at Johns Hopkins University, was personal economic adviser to the Prime Minister 1980-84.

Alan Walters puts the case against membership of the EMS

Let sterling go it alone

Lord Denning

Safeguarding trial by jury

Trial by jury has been disfigured for centuries by bribery and intimidation. The accused persons or their friends have thought to bribe or intimidate one or two of the jurors into giving a false verdict. But never before, in such an outrageous way, as that attempted on Wednesday in the Leeds Crown Court.

The trial was of some of the supporters of Leeds United Football Club who were charged with affray. In short, of hooliganism. That is defined in Section Two of the Public Order Act 1986 in these simple terms: "A person is guilty of affray if he uses or threatens unlawful violence towards another, and his conduct is such as would cause a person of reasonable firmness present at the scene to fear for his personal safety."

That definition can be applied appropriately to the scene in the Leeds Crown Court. The jurors were persons of reasonable firmness but they were made to fear for their personal safety. So much so that the judge felt it necessary to exhort them: "Show some guts and do your duty."

What is this new form of intimidation? According to the report the relatives and friends of the accused crowded into the public gallery and stared and stared at the jurors, making the jurors feel that they were fixing them in their memories so that they could recognize them afterwards and attack them.

One of the jurors told the court bailiff: "We are frightened. You could cut the atmosphere in there (the court) with a knife". After the judge had exhorted them to be courageous they did their duty. They convicted five of those charged. The judge offered them police protection but none accepted the offer.

The incident shows a need to reconsider some aspects of trial by jury. First, the composition of the jury. Some of the jurors came from the same area as the accused and were of the same age group — in their early twenties.

Before 1974 that could not have happened. Every juror then had to be a householder. He was, in the words of Lord Devlin: "Predominantly male, middle-aged and middle-class."

But then, under the Juries Act 1974 every person on the parliamentary electoral roll aged between 18 and 65 became qualified to sit on a jury as long as he has been resident in Britain for more than five years. Recent criminals with long sentences of imprisonment are disqualified but it is difficult to know if those on the panel are disqualified or not. The jury panel is made up by random selection from the voting list for the neighbourhood.

As a result, you may get girls or lads of 18 serving on a jury who may be an easy prey to bribery or intimidation. Second, admission to the public gallery. Every member of the

public is entitled to enter a court of law so long as there is room for him. Relatives and friends are entitled as much as, if not more than, others so that they can see and hear what happens. If there is any fear of intimidation or disturbance, ought not admission to be controlled by the use of tickets, as at the Houses of Parliament, rather than place in the queue? It would be a means of identifying troublemakers and tracking them down.

Third, protecting jurors from outside influence. Our forefathers had a very effective way of ensuring this. They kept the jurors together from the beginning of the trial to the end. They did not allow them to separate or go home, or out for a meal, or even to the lavatory,

except under supervision. That protection has been eroded to vanishing point. The jurors are now together in the jury box but that is all. They separate and go their own way individually for every other purpose. This gave rise to great anxiety in the days when jurors were required to be unanimous.

When, say, a bank robber was charged it was not unusual for one of his friends or associates to try to bribe or threaten one of the jurors — or his wife or relatives — and induce that juror to disagree. The evidence would be clear and convincing but there would be a disagreement within the jury and the man in the dock would have to be discharged.

That was an affront to justice. To circumvent it the police had to put a guard on the jurors and their relatives at great expense throughout the trial. This evil

was remedied to a considerable extent in 1967 when the unanimity rule was abrogated. Instead, a majority verdict of 10 to 2 was accepted.

This has worked well, but it does not work well when more than two members of the jury are bribed or intimidated. In the Leeds trial an attempt was made to intimidate many of the jury. Ought the rule to be changed to 9-3 instead of 10-2?

Fourth, thought should be given to the creation of a new offence. In the Public Order Act 1986 Parliament introduced a number of new statutory offences to replace the Common Law but I doubt whether the offence of intimidation, as in the Leeds case, is within any of the new offences. It is hard to call it an "affray" when there is no actual violence but only hard staring. It is hard to call it

"insulting words or behaviour" when nothing is done except staring.

Is there not a case for special provision for the protection of jurors from bribery or intimidation similar to contempt of court? I think that judges today would have power to order the public gallery to be closed but it might be better to have that power declared by statute.

Fifth, vindication. The Leeds case is a clear vindication of majority verdicts. The press reports say that the five found guilty were so found by majority verdicts, so at least 10 responded to the judge's call for courage. Sixth, there is one improvement, in the Criminal Justice Bill, which has been passed by the House of Lords and is now with the Commons: the abolition of the right of the defence to make a "peremptory challenge" to a juror. Hitherto when a respectable citizen in his best suit was called into the jury box, counsel for the accused could shout out "Challenge" without giving any reason. The respectable citizen would then have to step down. In future the defence can challenge only if it can show good reason, which it can rarely do.

But the prosecution has retained its right to object to a juror without giving a reason. For example, it might know something about the character of the proposed juror — perhaps he has a criminal conviction — which makes him unsuitable to serve in the case and does not wish to make it public.

With proper safeguards trial by jury is still suited to our country. It should not be replaced by judge alone, as in Northern Ireland, or by a judge with assessors. Even in a fraud trial Parliament has rejected the recommendation of Lord Roskill's committee for a special frauds tribunal. So let us keep trial by jury and do all we can to control the evil influences which would seek to disturb it.

Commentary • ROBERT KILROY-SILK

Sweet and sour

Neil Kinnock has regressed. He's back to his bad old ways, lecturing the workers on what's good for them. He has slipped into the discredited Labour habit of trying to force working people to fit an ideology and insisting that their actions conform with its principles, enunciated from above, rather than, as he should be doing, articulating their interests and representing their needs.

This time he's bectoring the Rowntree workers. Faced with a huge increase in the value of their shares as a result of the rival bids by Nestlé and Schar, some of the chocolate-makers' employees are, not unnaturally, considering selling out at a profit.

And why not? There's no financial, practical, moral or legal reason why they shouldn't. It makes good sense to sell, especially if, as seems likely, the price will never be so high again, or not for some considerable time. It makes especially good sense to sell if, as appears to be the case for some, the proceeds will permanently relieve the beneficiaries of the drudgery of the production line and provide them with permanent financial security. That's a very good reason to sell. There can be few better ones. It would be foolish not to sell, especially as their decision will have no effect on the outcome of the takeover battle — even their union shop stewards are now reconciled to Rowntree passing to Swiss control. Whatever they may have liked to have done, they have to face financial reality.

And what does the leader of the Labour Party advise? "Don't take the money," he yells, from the comfort and security of an annual income five times that of the Rowntree workers earn. But the instruction must be taken seriously. After all, the leader of the Labour Party must have the workers' interest uppermost in his mind. He will have good reasons for his injunction.

So what are they? Well, it can't be that he hopes that the employees' refusal to sell could block the takeover. Like the rest of us, he knows that the Swiss already own more than 45 per cent of the shares and the employees only 1 per cent.

Nor can he be afraid that the victor, whether Nestlé or Schar, will not preserve jobs and profits. Neither is going to pay a couple of billion pounds in order to impose redundancies and close factories as, apparently, Rowntree had intended.

In any case, as the workers' 1 per cent stake could not stop this, these considerations are irrelevant. The takeover will go ahead. The only likely consequence of the employees taking Neil's advice and not selling at today's price is that they will be the only shareholders not to have shared in the bonanza.

But let's assume that the takeover does lead to closures and redundancy. That's an even better reason to sell, now, while the share price is high. Then at least the employees will have something to show for their past labours besides redundancy and unemployment pay. Yet if Neil Kinnock's advice were to be followed they would not only be prevented from making a handsome profit from a successful takeover but would also be prevented from salvaging something from a potential debacle.

So what can be his motives? It cannot be that he is against foreign investment in Britain. That would be a foolish and irresponsible posture, especially when he discovers just how many jobs it creates.

In any case, the last Labour government, which he supported, despatched emissaries to all four corners of the globe pleading for companies to locate and invest in Britain. Few things could have been more humiliating than the way the government, and Labour councils, begged the foreigners to place their money here.

It certainly can't be profit that he's opposed to, not any more. Profit has now been resurrected as a laudable post-SDF, post-Thatcherite, socialist objective. A good thing too, given the way the trade unions know how to take their profits on their shares, as indeed do some Labour MPs. If it's all right for them then it's OK for Rowntree workers.

Neither can the Labour leader's plea be based on an antipathy to share ownership. All that anti-affluence nonsense has now been abandoned. It had to be. Labour party members and MPs led the way in insisting that they wanted to be part of the Thatcherite good life, just as they scrambled, MPs among them, for privatization shares.

So what's left? Very little, and it's not flattering. Either Neil was giving bad advice because he hadn't thought the matter through or he was cynically using the workers as a stick with which to beat the Government. In either case the workers are the losers. Either way it was not an edifying posture for a leader of the Labour Party.

SCIENCE REPORT

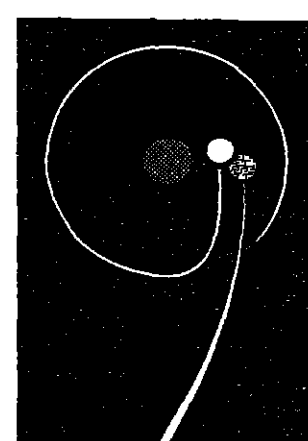
Star attraction

Unusual variations in the brightness of Neptune's small and accelerated satellite Nereid may give clues to its equally unusual history.

M. Schaefer and E. Schaefer of the Goddard Space Flight Centre in Greenbelt, Maryland, writing in *Nature*, combine observations of Nereid's brightness, colour and orbital motion to argue that it was formed as an aggregation of smaller bodies and was subsequently kicked by some unknown agent into its present markedly elliptical path around Neptune.

Nereid was discovered only in 1949, and has been so little studied that the best estimate of its orbit is based on only 50 positions measured between then and 1981. It revolves around Neptune in about 360 days in an elliptical path, lying between 900,000 miles (at its closest approach to Neptune) and 6 million miles.

But these numbers are only approximate, and when the Voyager 2 planetary probe arrives at Neptune in August 1989, the position of Nereid will be inexact by about 12,000 miles, so that Voyager may have difficulty finding it. This is one reason the Schaefer made a short series of observations of the satellite last June. By carefully comparing Nereid with several nearby stars of known magnitude, they discovered that Nereid waxes and wanes in brightness by a factor of four between one and three times a day.



Richard Leakey

Although Nereid is small by astronomical standards, it is nonetheless more than 120 miles across, and large enough by the patterns of other solar system satellites to be at least approximately spherical.

It is likely that Nereid's surface is of irregular composition, reflecting sunlight four times more efficiently from one side than the other. As well as monitoring the position and brightness of Nereid, the Schaefer also tried to determine its colour. Because it is so faint, the best that can be done is to find the variations in brightness on the visible spectrum. This measurement reveals that Nereid does not look like other satellites, nor like the asteroids, being more blue in colour.

The new observations also conflict with the standard explanation for Nereid's un-

usual orbit that it was originally an asteroid which has recently been captured by Neptune. The difficulty is that Nereid is bigger than all but a handful of known asteroids, it is the wrong colour and its variations of brightness are much more extreme.

But if Nereid is not a captured asteroid, it presumably formed in the same way as other satellites, which is thought to be by the gradual aggregation of debris left in orbit around the planets as they came into being. The problem then is that when numerous small pieces of rock come together, the orbit of the resulting body tends to become circular, because the random ellipticities of the constituent pieces will, on average, cancel each other out.

On this line of reasoning, the Schaefer concludes that Nereid must have originally formed in a circular orbit but then must have been thrown into its present elliptical path by a near collision with, perhaps, a passing comet.

This is a weighty conclusion to draw from incomplete evidence, but by making the best observations so far of Nereid, the Schaefer have prepared the way for a more thorough examination by Voyager 2 a little over a year from now. Close inspection should reveal the shape, colour and composition of Nereid in enough detail to allow theories of its origin to be put to the test.

DAVID LINDLEY



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JUDGE AND JURY

As Lord Denning says in his article on the opposite page, the independence of juries is essential to the justice and efficiency of the British judicial system. In the past, this was often challenged by the executive, but even the most extreme critics of Mrs Thatcher stop short of suggesting that she tries to pack juries. Today, the menace comes from certain sections of the populace, not from Government or Crown.

The nature of the menace has been vividly illustrated by the case in the Crown Court at Leeds in which 10 Leeds United fans were tried on charges of conspiracy to cause violence at football matches. Astonishingly, an officer of the court felt obliged to draw the attention of the judge to the fact that some members of the jury had confessed that they were terrified of what might happen to them if they returned verdicts of guilty. The source of their fear, apparently, was the threatening atmosphere allegedly created by the behaviour of friends and supporters of the accused in public gallery.

The sequence of events is alarming and in this case is made more so by the fact that it followed so soon after another disturbing incident when the prosecution against another group of football fans collapsed at a recent trial in the Crown Court in Snaresbrook. Some jury members were seen in a nearby pub celebrating the victory of the accused. Their behaviour was presumably not the result of intimidation, but it can have done nothing to enhance the reputation of the jury system for independence.

Judge Jonathan Crabtree at Leeds dealt with his extraordinary difficulties admirably. Warned of the jurors' fears, he rightly refused to dismiss the jury and order a new trial. This would have been a weak-minded course and one which would probably have given much immediate satisfaction to anybody who had been trying to terrorize the jury. Instead, he delivered a stern and excellent lecture to the jury, counselling "guts".

He also offered them police protection, but advised against it because of the intrusion it would cause into their private lives. Perhaps part of the motive for that advice was that

police protection for all frightened juries could place an intolerable strain on the police. The jury then overcame its nerves to the extent of convicting five of the accused.

It may be that the fears of this particular jury were misplaced, that applause for acquittal of family or friends does not necessarily carry a menace and that the jurors' impression that they were being ominously stared at from the gallery arose from their own imaginations. Imaginary fears, however, can be as effective as justified ones.

In trying to make juries feel safer, one aspect of the Leeds case is highly important. The jury was overwhelmingly young in composition, and it is hard to believe that this had nothing to do with the fact that no less than 27 peremptory challenges to potential jurors had been made by the defence lawyers. If those lawyers had counted on getting acquittals as a result of the presumed sympathy of the young for their contemporaries in trouble, the final result must have been disappointing. However, young jurors who have to sit in judgement on young neighbours whom — or whose friends — they are likely to meet afterwards must be particularly exposed to the danger of intimidation.

If the Criminal Justice Bill gets through Parliament in its present form, the right of peremptory challenge by the defence will be abolished and the upper age limit for jury service will be increased from 65 to 70. This should make it more likely that in future juries will be more evenly balanced in terms of age.

Other less fundamental measures could include the re-arrangement of the courts, in order to deprive the public gallery of a sight of the jury; a system of entrances and exits designed to protect jurors from the dangers of being accosted by unwelcome people, and a wider use of the power to transfer cases to courts distant from the scene of the crime. They should all be considered.

However, Judge Crabtree was entirely right. In the last resort, there is no substitute for the "guts" which he recommended. It was on civic courage that the jury system was built, and it is by civic courage alone it can be preserved.

THE FINAL CHAPTER?

Seven judges in the Australian High Court yesterday made Mr Peter Wright a millionaire, at a cost to the British Government and its taxpayers. In a 28-page judgment, they ended the legal battle against the publication there of Mr Wright's book *Spycatcher*. Over 250,000 copies of the hardback edition have already been sold in Australia, his adopted country, following last year's finding in its favour by a lower court. By coincidence, a paperback edition has just been published, ensuring Mr Wright still bigger sales. But all royalties had been frozen until yesterday.

The British Government's case was that Mr Wright had a duty not to disclose information which he had obtained while serving as an employee of MI5. The Australian judges acknowledged that he had this obligation, which was crucial to the efficiency of the security service. He was also, they conceded, bound by the Official Secrets Act.

Where they parted company with the British Government was in their judgment that all this lay outside their jurisdiction. As the legal action had been taken to protect British defence interests, it was "governmental" and thus fell under international law. As such, it was not enforceable by their court.

"It is perhaps tempting to suggest" said yesterday's judgment, "that because of the close relationship between the United Kingdom and Australia an exception should be made to enable the UK to enforce in courts an obligation of the kind now in question". But what if a less friendly country were to take similar action? It was not for Australia's courts to assess the degree of friendliness or unfriendliness of a foreign power. It might be against Australia's interests if they tried.

That is not an unreasonable position. The British Government, through its representative in Canberra, has expressed its disappointment with the judgment. But it surely cannot have been surprised to read it.

Mr Wright had a duty not to breach the Official Secrets Act. By doing so, he has been guilty of at least a moral offence against the Crown, which he must live with. He might

argue that the importance of his allegations — that the late Sir Roger Hollis (former MI5 chief) was a Soviet spy — released him from this lifelong obligation. But the case against Sir Roger remains circumstantial and unproven and hardly justifies this breach of trust. There is also a world of difference between information contained in a book by a former senior Security Service officer, and that revealed by investigative journalists or other outsiders — however skilled and authoritative.

That Mr Wright was wrong to publish what he did is not in question. But to pursue him through the Australian courts when the book is freely available elsewhere and when the hope of winning the action seemed so slender makes little sense. Two months ago, the Government disclosed that the legal cost of fighting *Spycatcher* had already passed £520,000 — in addition to £90,000 "travel expenses and subsistence". The costs awarded against Britain in Canberra yesterday, assessed at more than £500,000, should presumably be added to that.

For 18 months the Government has fought Mr Wright every inch of the way — only to be told, in the end, that the matter lies outside the jurisdiction of the court. This might sound as if its ministers are courageous. It also suggests they have been very badly advised.

The motive might have been to make life as difficult as possible for Mr Wright. The effect, however, has been to double (on a conservative estimate) his profits. Whitehall might have wished to deter other agents tempted to exchange the sword for the pen — and retire to some distant corner of the world. But the reward Mr Wright has received could rather tempt the less scrupulous souls among them.

The Government has not emerged with a great deal of dignity from the Australian courts. It has been comprehensively beaten — and in a manner which should have been foreseen. Discretion should now be the better part of valour and Mr Wright, who himself emerges with little credit from the whole affair, should be left to save his conscience with his money.

Rescue alarms

From Mr Peter Stock
Sir, I have recently returned home from several lengthy periods in hospital and have had the opportunity to observe the number of people admitted from a common cause — a fall in their own homes.

These falls, often producing quite minor injuries, are made more serious by the inability to summon assistance immediately. Lengthy treatment is often followed by loss of confidence in living independently. Costs are then incurred. The falls usually occur at night and so victims remain on the floor for hours until a friendly neighbour calls in the morning. By then the damage has been done.

There is a simple solution, which should be dealt with as a normal public emergency service — the provision of a simple electronic device which would automatically summon assistance following a fall or illness. This following a fall or illness or should be issued to all elderly or disabled people who live in their own homes or in sheltered accommodation.

I have had experience in a provincial city in France where simple electronic pendants are worn by all disabled or elderly. A fall will set off

the alarm system or the pendant can be tapped in cases of sudden illness. It has saved the city a vast sum in special care or hospitalisation.

Yours faithfully,
PETER STOCK, (Chairman, Godalming Disabling Action Group),
Timbers,
Binscombe,
Godalming, Surrey.

Compensation awards

From Mr Jeremy Shulman
Sir, Des Wilson comments (feature, May 19) that "those lawyers who shake their heads in disapproval at the idea of contingency fees have a responsibility to come up with an acceptable alternative". That is precisely what the Young Solicitors Group are doing by backing a proposal which should offer low-cost equal access to civil justice for all who need it.

The Law Society has put forward the idea of a fixed costs scheme for funding civil litigation — a scheme whereby a client makes a number of fixed payments, the maximum total of which will be known at the outset, to a fund from which the legal costs would be paid. The costs would be required could total as much as £625, which may deter many members of the public from

pursuing deserving claims for compensation.

We have therefore produced a fixed costs insurance scheme which would require the public to accept that, one day, they may have an accident, or some other incident may occur, giving rise to a civil claim and that they need to insure against that. The premiums payable should be minimal — the maximum value of the risk being approximately £550 — and certainly a good deal less than the premiums paid today for full legal expenses insurance cover. It should offer an inexpensive, effective and widely available method of funding compensation and other civil claims.

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY SHULMAN
(Chairman, Young Solicitors Group, The Law Society),
21 York Place,
Leeds, West Yorkshire,
May 24.

Moulders of form

From Mr C. R. M. Smith
Sir, Eighty years, with respect to Mrs Matthews (May 27), is really not that impressive. I have a grandmother which dates from 1899 and is still in excellent condition.
Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER SMITH,
4 Garth Court,
Woodfield Grove, SW16.

Verdict on Tumbledown author

From General Sir John Hackett
Sir, A signal disservice is being done to the Scots Guards, one of the British Army's most distinguished regiments, outstanding in performance on the battlefield and, as is common in great fighting regiments, well known for its concern over the well-being of all members of the regimental family. It has been attacked by an ex-officer badly wounded in the Falklands, in writings and public utterances which have saddened many by their insensitivity, arrogance and inaccuracy.

This is a good young man gone sour. He did what was expected of him in the battle and did it well, for which he received the Military Cross. What he writes of the fighting, in which he was seriously wounded, reads well. Much of the rest of his recently published book does not.

He came back from the Atlantic expecting, he says, a hero's welcome and received none. He also expected charitable money and, in due course, was given a great deal, but complains that this was slow in coming. He also received much patient, loving skilful care from medical services in the Army and RAF and out there, for which it is hard to find in his book any recognition at all.

There will be many with much experience of war and heavy wounding who will find this book offensive (particularly those bits about being a hero) and not a few would have been grateful for a small fraction of the £130,000 its author was handed out from charity to save his wounds. He concedes his arrogance but not the enormous conceit with which he has concocted himself.

Contempt is less in order here, however, than compassion. His regiment is generous and will in time (when the inaccuracies are corrected) forgive him. Those whose care ensured the preserva-

tion, prolongation and enrichment of his life, and who receive such scant recognition for it, may do the same. But in the life they prolonged for him he will have to live with himself, and on the self-portrait he has given us this may not be easy.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HACKETT,
Cavalry and Guards Club,
127 Piccadilly, W1,
June 1.

From Mr Rex Collings
Sir, It is sad, if your report of the reactions of MPs is correct (June 1) that *Tumbledown* should be regarded as a party-political production. From the comfortable armchair in which I often sit I supported, enthusiastically, the action taken by HM Government to liberate the Falklands from Argentinian occupation, an action which I still believe to have been fully justified. But it is salutary that we armchair critics should from time to time be reminded of the cost that was always extracted from the participants, that MPs and their electors should be reminded that it is usually others who are obliged to pay the cost of their high principles.

One despairs of the intelligence and common sense of the Conservative MP who you report as saying that this production was a case of "the BBC stabbing the nation in the back". It was nothing of the kind; it was a reminder that even in just causes (as the Falklands operation was) there are casualties and that men and institutions are both fallible and prone to err; and that embarrassment is not normally a reliable guide to acceptable behaviour. We owe a debt of gratitude to Mr Lawrence and to the BBC for making us think about the cost of our actions.
Yours faithfully,
REX COLLINGS,
38 King Street, WC2,
June 1.

Homes in South-east

From Mr Wyndham Thomas
Sir, Sir James Richards, as Architectural Correspondent of *The Times*, was in the 50s and 60s a powerful advocate of high-density and high-rise building by local authorities. He and others advanced three reasons for this policy. First, it would save "priceless" farmland. Second, it would produce excitingly urban, not boringly suburban living places. Third, people would be happier living huddle-mugger in tenement blocks and terraces.

Now that this policy has come to its awful accounting, all three reasons are known to be wrong. I suggest, Sir James is wrong on three counts more in his letter of May 20.

First, half the new homes in the South-east are already being built on "spare land within built-up areas". But there is no great reservoir of empty and available land in London and other South-east cities and towns. If all that is potentially available were used immediately it would have no more than a slight and transient effect on market demand (and housing needs) outside the cities.

Second, new private housing densities are, generally, much

higher than at any time since 1919. High land prices and local preservation policies force this. By contrast, "the traditional English market town of urban terraces, squares and crescents" are low-density areas (as land-use studies have consistently shown).

Third, there is no real danger of "every town becoming joined to the next". The built-on area of the ten counties of the South-east is about 16 per cent of their total area. On present trends it could be about 17 per cent by the end of the century.

Even so, the renewal of inner city areas must be the nation's top development priority for a generation or more. It needs even greater public resources, and the attraction thereby of much larger private investment, than we are yet devoting to it. But much increased housebuilding as part of urban regeneration is needed overwhelmingly for people living (and working) in those areas now, not as a putative means of shifting households from shire districts to inner boroughs. That just cannot be done.
Yours faithfully,
WYNDHAM THOMAS,
8 Westwood Park Road,
Peterborough, Cambridgeshire,
May 20.

Barrow breastplate

From Dr Paul Ashbee
Sir, The British Museum's re-modelling of the unique sheet-gold lozenge from the Bush Barrow (May 28), detailed in the March issue of *Antiquity*, is sadly misguided. The plaque, in its unrestored condition, embodied evidence which has now been needlessly destroyed.

Its finely striated face, for instance, the slight variations in the gauge of the sheet-gold and, perhaps, some of the surface irregularities, were thought, when I was able to examine it in 1958, to reflect the use of polished stone tools by the prehistoric metal workers. The flattening, and the ragged perforations could have occurred when it was torn from the remains of a tippet or jerkin and crushed when a timber mortuary chamber collapsed.

Future of radio

From the Chairman, Association for Broadcasting Development
Sir, I read with interest "Investors told to prepare for radio revolution" (report, May 31). It might be worth pointing out that the existing 46 independent local radio contractors will represent just one small part of the overall revolution. The real growth is likely to come from over 200 new local radio stations and up to three national stations. This radical and much welcome departure will be outlined in forthcoming legislation.
The Green Paper on radio

Waiting time

From Mr Narindar Saroop
Sir, Notwithstanding great social and technological changes, one fact of life has remained constant. I refer to the difficulty of trying to attract a waiter's attention.

What and how is one to call them? Shouting "waiter" is no longer acceptable, if it ever was. The pathetic mumbblings of "Hullo" and "Excuse me" from the more easily intimidated customers do not appeal. Why don't restaurants consider following the

acknowledged that there was "evidence of stagnation in radio at the local level". It is our belief that Government is turning to outsiders (such as members of this association) to provide the stimulation and verve, much needed and little in evidence to date. However, it is saddening to learn that this prospective legislation will be delayed.
Yours faithfully,
PAUL BOON (Chairman, The Association for Broadcasting Development),
Glebelands, Pilgrims Way,
Tisbury, Near Oxford, Surrey,
May 31.

eminently sensible custom employed in two well-known clubs, where all the excellent staff are called Charles in one, and George in the other.

For the benefit of non-regulars of various establishments, a board could be displayed at the entrance with words to the effect "All waiters should/must be addressed as Bert, Alf or Henry". The fact that most of them would have Mediterranean names or further East is immaterial.

More egalitarian establishments could even consider stipulating "Dear Henry".
Yours faithfully,
NARINDAR SAROOP,
25 De Vere Gardens, W8,
May 30.

Measures of the nation's health

From Professor Sir Hermann Bondi, FRS

Sir, I am greatly puzzled by the argument frequently advanced that this country should pay more for medical health care per head because other industrialized countries spend more, in some cases very much more. Surely the question to be asked relates to the output, the health of the nation, not to the input of expenditure. Measuring the health of a country is not easy or without ambiguity, but life expectancy and perinatal mortality are good indicators.

On this basis one finds virtually no correlation between medical health care expenditure and health. New Zealand, one of the lowest spenders, has excellent health statistics. Sweden, with twice the expenditure a head compared with Finland, has worse

perinatal mortality figures. USA, spending per head 2½ times what the UK does, has marginally better expectation of life figures, but marginally worse perinatal mortality figures.

I do not wish to enter the argument of whether expenditure should be public or private or in what proportions. However, if more is to be spent on the health of the nation, then demonstrably these extra funds should not go to hospitals and prescriptions, but perhaps to improved housing, better pollution control, health education, recreational facilities, road safety, and to raising tobacco duties beyond the point of maximum yield.
Yours faithfully,
HERMANN BONDI, Master,
Churchill College, Cambridge,
May 29.

Opting out of NHS

From the Director of the Institute of Economic Affairs Health Unit
Sir, Dr Robert Maxwell (May 25) criticises schemes to opt out of the NHS. He makes two errors.

First, he claims that good risks will opt out, leaving unhealthy people in the NHS. However, he also says that people will only opt out if they consider it to be to their advantage, yet he fails to see that people with most to gain from opting out will be those biding their time in pain on NHS waiting lists. Opting out will give real buying power not merely to the wealthy but to precisely those people who are trapped by NHS rationing.

Second, he claims that opting out will lead to a "two-tier system". This loaded term carries weight because it implies opposition to any arrangements which lock the poor into an inferior service. Such a state of affairs would undoubtedly be undesirable but opponents of a "two-tier system" go further than this to oppose all significant differences in health care provision.

They assume that health care services can be ranked in a single hierarchy, with those who pay more always receiving higher standard care than those who pay less.

But this is not how health care markets actually function. Certainly many alternatives emerge; paying more does not necessarily mean that you get better care. For instance, insurance policies which offer medical care from an approved panel of doctors (such as health maintenance organisations) are cheaper than open-ended fee-for-service plans which undertake to pay the bill wherever you go for treatment.

The main reason is that the doctors on the approved panel have been selected because they follow a conservative style of practice, preferring fewer diagnoses, the tests and fewer surgical interventions than doctors who follow a more elaborate style involving

Ethiopian princesses

From Professor Edward Ullendorff
Sir, The recent release, after nearly 14 years of utterly unprovoked rigorous incarceration, of the late Emperor Haile Selassie's elderly daughter, granddaughters and other close relatives (report, May 23) will have come as a profound relief to all friends of Ethiopia. This is, however, also the moment to remember two young princesses who perished in prison and countless other innocent Ethiopians who shared that fate. The fortitude of the imprisoned princesses has set a wonderful example of faith and strength in adversity.

Alas, three grandsons of the Emperor are still detained, and unhappily no motives of compassion can be attributed to the present rulers. They have used famine as an instrument of coercion and employed mass deportation of the hunger-weakened population of Eritrea and Tigre to the (to them) alien south as a means of subduing the inhabitants of those northern areas which were the cradle of Ethiopian civilization. The military dictator of Ethiopia is still pursuing Stalinist policies — unaware of the spirit of perestroika now current in the places from which his revolutionary inspiration emanated.

The western media who attended the obsequies of Haile Selassie's dying reign are not innocent, for they were often as wayward in their political orientation as they were ignorant of the historical and cultural background. The "six billion dollars" the Emperor was accused of having "salted away" proved to be fictitious (*The Times*, April 7, 1977), but the calumny has stuck, while the truth about the penury of the Ethiopian royal exiles has never received comparable publicity.

The release of the princesses is a time of rejoicing and also of doing belated justice to those so cruelly maligned.
I am, Sir, yours truly,
EDWARD ULLENDORFF,
4 Bladon Close, Oxford,
May 27.

Taken as read

From Mr P. J. Ash, OBE
Sir, I have recently received a correctly addressed circular from British Telecom stating "You may be surprised to get this letter. You may even ask, 'Why is British Telecom writing to me?'"

No, I was not surprised. What was surprising was to find myself addressed as "Dear Mr E".
Yours faithfully,
P. J. ASH,
Church Villa, West Stour,
Gillingham, Dorset,
May 27.

ON THIS DAY

JUNE 3 1963

Alas, poor Shakespeare! Even he, all unknown, was drawn into the Cold War

SHAKESPEARE ENTERS THE COLD WAR

GERMAN SOCIETY SPLIT

From Our Own Correspondent

BONN, June 2

The German Shakespeare Society, which has sought for the past 17 years to preserve a non-political unity in a divided country, now looks as if it will celebrate the 400th anniversary of the dramatist's birth, and the 100th anniversary of its founding next year, separately and in rivalry, in the east and west.

When Dr Rudolf Alexander Schröder, the poet and Shakespeare translator, died last year, the society chose Herr Werner Schütz, former Minister of Culture and Education of North-Rhine Westphalia, to succeed him as president. This choice of a Christian Democratic politician has made him ever since the target of communist attacks.

The rivalry has culminated in a dispute over this year's annual meeting. The east Germans held one, which had been vetoed by Herr Schütz, at Weimar last month. At a press conference recently at Bochum, Herr Schütz announced that the 1963 annual meeting would be held this autumn at Bochum.

The east German meeting decided in spite of the dispute to make Weimar again the headquarters of the society. Since 1948 there have been two equal-ranking offices for the Weimar and Bochum areas, a term chosen to get round referring to the two existing German states.

MEETING PACKED

Herr Schütz said he had called off the Weimar meeting because the communist authorities intended to make a political takeover bid for the distinguished literary society.

He recalled that the 1961 meeting, when it recommended a Weimar meeting, had left the final decision to the president, depending upon there being adequate assurances that "political considerations would be left aside".

Instead the Communist Party officials had been busy before the meeting. Conscious that the east German area had only about 20 per cent of the total membership, they prepared to pack the meeting with a majority by promptly inscribing some 500 new young members...

The east German gathering duly paid its political tributes; Shakespeare was hailed from the opening day as the "great teacher for socialist drama". A non-political scholar was chosen as the new president: Professor Martin Lehmer, Professor of English at the east Berlin Humboldt University.

Critics of Herr Schütz have argued that if the break had come to the west German members, who have done incomparably more for the society, both culturally and financially, since the war, ought not to have shied away from the Weimar encounter; they should have gone there "if necessary on foot". That according to Herr Schütz, would have introduced a political element into the society, which must above all be avoided. Many members, however, believe that that is what happened when Herr Schütz was chosen as president.

Conscious of the example of the German Goethe Society, which has so far maintained a tenuous unity, the Shakespeare Society had wished to elect Professor Carl Burckhardt, but the Swiss historian declined...

THE ARTS

TELEVISION

Experts dancing

Hypotheticals (Granada) bowed out with a panoramic examination of the sex war, known here as "the divorce situation". The usual sack of experts was fed through an artificial family torn apart by adultery, domestic violence, and lawyers.

This annual mini-series is a great spectator sport, with the professional savants delicately drawing exclusion zones of responsibility around their shoes, while simultaneously demonstrating how far they justify their salaries. Dancing to the baton of the moderator, Jane Belson, the gathering resembled either a soap-opera script conference or a whodunit on the hoof, depending on the seriousness of the particular matter under review. It is certainly salutary to see such people vying to be witty, and their mock-cynicism often looked like the real article.

Let us move on (as the moderators say when peering over edits) to *Exiles* (BBC2), a new series launched with a profile of the Austrian poet Erich Fried. Two significant events bracket his public career. In 1927, the precocious six-year-old author of political verse refused to recite a Christmas poem in the presence of Vienna's Chief of Police, who then stalked out. And last year, the *viellard terrible* himself walked out of a prize-giving ceremony in Darmstadt, after its mayor accused him of operating a double standard. Unfortunately, one ended by feeling for the mayor, who was railroaded by Fried's supporters into apologizing.

The most popular living poet of the German-speaking world has ever been a glutton for controversy, whether expressing solidarity with the Baader-Meinhof gang or castigating the state of Israel, which — since he is an Austrian Jew self-exiled in Kilburn — raises intellectual honesty to the status of a side-arm.

Taking him back to the sites of his youth, the programme struck an agreeable balance between biography and readings from the work, but might have gone further in sniffing out the more particular resonances of his exile. This combative man's surname is an abbreviation of the word "peace".

Martin Cropper

The Winter's Tale
Open Air Theatre,
Regent's Park

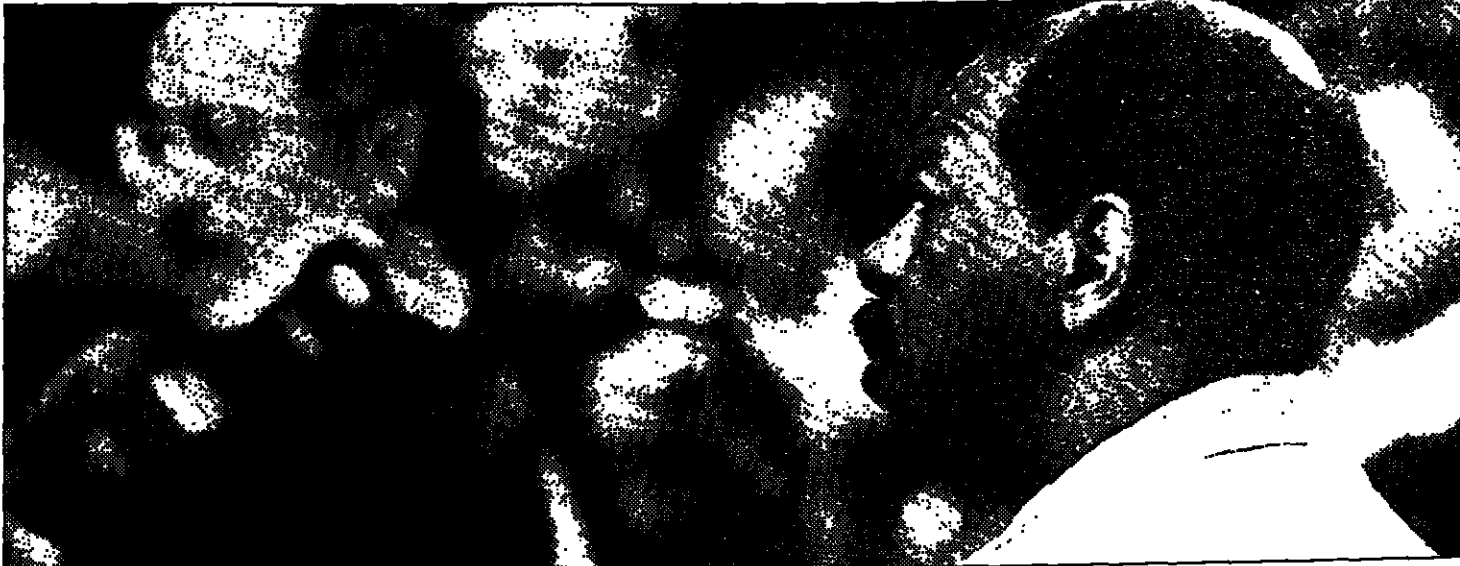
With this production we resume the annual pretence that London basks in a Mediterranean climate. Wrapped in coats, cocooned within blankets, we watch the brave doings of performers kitted out in summery muslins and rub our hands gently to remind ourselves we have them.

David Gilmore's production is serviceable, all of the words are audible, thanks to two mikes protruding from the grassy bank front of stage; but some of the company still doubt their efficiency and raise their voices,

Richard Williams meets jazz musician Ornette Coleman, whose symphonic work *The Skies of America* has its British premiere tonight

Music of the sky

ALLAN TITMUS



Preparing for the first public performance of *The Skies of America* in Britain: Ornette Coleman at rehearsal with the Philharmonia yesterday

If a composer were to attempt in a single work to create a rounded musical portrait of America, he would need an unusual variety of skills and experience: a familiarity with Howlin' Wolf as well as Aaron Copeland, with Charlie Parker as well as John Philip Sousa, with Jimi Hendrix as well as Steve Reich.

Ornette Coleman is known primarily as the saxophonist and composer who, in the early 1960s, led jazz into a form of collective improvisation that appeared to ignore such niceties as bar lines and key signatures. Since the middle 1970s he has fronted a sextet called Prime Time, playing a clamorous electrified music which has superficial affinities with rock. But *The Skies of America*, the 90-minute symphonic work which he performs tonight on the South Bank with Prime Time and the Philharmonia Orchestra, may be the closest anyone has come to a truly inclusive depiction of his native land.

A calm, philosophical figure who has spent most of his 58 years at the centre of controversy, Coleman described yesterday how a night under the stars at an Indian reservation in Montana had inspired the piece. "I participated in their sacred rites," he said, "and it made me think about the many different elements existing in America, in relation to its causes, purpose and destiny. For some reason, I got that feeling from the sky. I feel that everything that has ever happened in America, from way before the Europeans arrived, is still intact as far as the sky is concerned."

It is never easy for someone with "jazz musician" on his passport to persuade promoters to put up the money for events requiring orchestras and rehearsals. Since the recorded version was made in 1972, taped in London with the LSO, *The Skies of America* has subsequently received only three public performances: at the Newport Jazz Festival in New York, also in 1972; at Fort Worth, Texas,

Coleman's home town, in 1983; and last summer in Verona. Coleman's plight was compounded by problems with the scoring. A self-taught musician whose unique vision has led him to a system which he calls the harmolodic theory, he needed the services of an orchestrator to realize his ideas. Various misunderstandings led to an inaccurate transcription, which went uncorrected until John Giordano,

musical director of the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, got his hands on it in 1983. Giordano first encountered Coleman at Fort Worth jam sessions in the late 1950s. He admired Coleman's progress from a distance. "He was something of an outcast even then, doing things that nobody else would dare to do — and now, of course, it doesn't sound strange at all. He's held on to his beliefs absolutely

unswervingly through the years." After the Fort Worth performance, Giordano undertook a complete reorchestration of the piece. "I familiarized myself with his concepts of melody, counterpoint, and freedom of rhythm, and then I started with page one, note one, working like a ghost writer on an autobiography, checking everything back with him. It's still Ornette's composition, though, in every sense."

Giordano has managed to devise a method allowing the orchestra to play simultaneously with Prime Time, which had always been Coleman's intention. "For the most part," he says, "the notation is traditional. But we're also using aleatoric techniques, including hand signals, to help the piece reflect Ornette's free style of improvisation."

Such methods also help to achieve the composer's aim of getting the orchestral musicians to contribute more than simply a reading of the dots. "From Mozart to Thelonious Monk," Coleman said yesterday, "we all use the same musical intervals to make our mistakes or to find perfection."

"What each person brings is phrasing, breathing and emotion. I made up my mind always to try and inspire people to express themselves. Some people call that free jazz. I call it harmolodics."

"As it was scored before," Giordano says, "the piece literally irritated the symphony players. A violinist who's spent his whole life polishing the sort of tone you need to play Debussy doesn't necessarily like being told to scrape his \$30,000 instrument with the wrong side of his bow."

"I've tried to rewrite it in such a way that any orchestra can play it without resentment, and with only minimal rehearsal, provided that they're conducted by someone completely in tune with Ornette's thinking. It seems to be working. The Verona orchestra plays nothing but Puccini and Verdi, and they loved it."

Positive pageant unfolds

The Mask of Time
Festival Hall

The gigantic, and allegedly obscure, frame of textual references assembled by Sir Michael Tippett for his choral masterpiece *The Mask of Time*, has caused some consternation in the four years since the premiere. Much more readily appreciated was the music: a stunning pageant of unexpected instrumental sonorities, florid passagework and the sort of delight in virtuoso polyphonic writing that some thought gone for ever in 1750.

Now that there is an excellent recording to study, and new interpreters such as the admirable Brian Wright offering fresh in-

CONCERTS

sights, one begins to see the underlying thread. Despite Tippett's gracious acknowledgement of Jacob Bronowski's influence, *The Mask* is really less about "the ascent of man" than about the artist's enduring impulse to make sense of chaos as he "stalks on" through the jungle, the Ice Age, the loss of paradise, atomic destruction, and so on.

What complicates matters is Tippett's way of nibbling at several ethical systems in the course of two hours, yet ending up apparently espousing none — though there are clues. At the end, *The Mask* freezes breathtakingly

in an ecstatic wordlessness that no pessimist could have written.

It was good to hear the young instrumentalists of the National Centre for Orchestral Studies tackling this challenging score so ably under Wright's assured direction; only near the end did fatigue sap concentration. Combined forces from Goldsmiths Choral Union, the BBC Symphony Chorus and Pegasus sang with discipline and evident enthusiasm — the exposed chamber choir was particularly fine. The soloists (Faye Robinson, Mary King, Kim Begley, David Wilson-Johnson) projected the character of their composite roles more effectively than the actual words.

Richard Morrison

Amsterdam Baroque
Orchestra/Koopman
Christ Church,
Spitalfields

One can say that a composer is important without necessarily implying that he is also great. Take Carols, or Caryl Hacquart: his *De triomferende Min* (Love's triumph) is of some importance in the history of baroque music.

It has been described as the first Dutch opera, even though its layout of songs and dances suggests the static forms of pastoral and masque — or at least it does without the spoken parts.

Nevertheless, as performed at Spitalfields by the Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra under Ton Koopman on Wednesday night, *De*

triomferende Min came over as an agreeable work, inventive enough to sustain interest throughout its 40 or so minutes, and capable of an occasional touch of real beauty.

Some fine singing, notably from the strong and agile bass Harry van der Kamp, added still greater immediacy to the experience. It was good too to hear singing in which the style (particularly in the use of vibrato) was in harmony with that of the playing — not the "authentic playing, modern singing" compromise one hears increasingly these days.

Generally speaking, the problem of supplying the missing instrumental numbers (not included in the original publication) was satisfactorily solved by drawing on other Hacquart works; though the inclusion of a stylish and brilliant overture by Lully tended to emphasize by contrast the chasteness of

Hacquart's initial aria.

A valuable experience certainly, but one prepared oneself for Parcell's *Fairy Queen* with the feeling that duty was done, and that now real enjoyment could take over. The nine orchestral pieces made a splendid suite, and Koopman and his orchestra made much of the springy dance rhythms and delicious harmonic scratches.

It is often said that period instruments cannot supply the range of colour of their modern counterparts, but there was plenty of fine shading here. The contrast between the incisive string tone in the Overture and the suave-toned Flauto should itself have been enough to convince most doubters.

A delightful performance, then, though rather short as a second half, even including the encore.

Stephen Johnson

Dreamworld that dazzles as it fades

Greenland
Royal Court

The promised land has not been much in evidence in the two earlier plays of Howard Brenton's *Utopian* trilogy, but now it materializes as a flamingo pink paradise of peace and gratified desire in this finale. *Greenland* suggests a collaboration between John Lennon and Bernard Shaw.

It evokes a world like Lennon's "Imagine", free from the conflicts that make up our blinkered definition of life. And it operates like Shaw's SF extravaganzas, with a first act illustrating Western civilization's self-inflicted torments, and then transports its characters to an exotic location where they learn the absurdity of their ways.

Brenton's first act marks a cracking return to his old cartoon style. It is polling day on a rock-bottom south London council estate. A Labour candidate (Jane Lapotaire) is canvassing the tower block against strenuous opposition from a lager-crazed down-and-out, a media-wise fundamentalist bigot (Sheila Hancock), and a lesbian street theatre group, who



Mother and daughter at odds: Lesley Sharp (left) and Sheila Hancock

are mounting their version of the Crucifixion with a Jesus who turns out to be the bigot's daughter.

Meanwhile the upper classes are also getting their due with a staggering party of drunken lords, including Paul (David Haig), a titled desperado who drives his wife (a suicidally funny Janet McTeer) into swallowing her diamond necklace, before casting himself into the Thames. The other principals all follow his example, and wake up in a happy land seven centuries in the future. Here, to a lulling background of

DONALD COOPER

bimbo. Paul is roaming the woods looking for things to kill; and Miss Hancock, after a brief moment of fleshly backsliding, rounds up her lovers as converts. It is not a success: "We tried to love you, Betty", one of them concludes: "but we don't".

The climax comes with Miss Lapotaire's pilgrimage to meet the last surviving reactionary: a wheelchair-bound, old Russian, who trumpets all the life-is-conflict clichés of the "early lost enlightenment" to the contemptuous indulgence of his protectors. *Greenland* is often violently funny, even on its Utopian plateau; and Simon Curtis's production preserves theatrical drive even when didacticism takes over. Not that didacticism is putting messages first this time.

His manifest aim is to expose the habitual monsters and victims of 1988 in circumstances where their behaviour becomes totally nonsensical. The trouble is that he has already achieved this by the end of the first act: what he fails to do is then to present them through the eyes of the future. There is, even so, some dazzling acting.

Irving Wardle

Late redemption

OPERA

Nell/Van Diemen's
Land
Donmar Warehouse

Knit one, drop one; win one, lose one. It was losing night on Wednesday at the London International Opera Festival.

Elsie-May rocked in her chair, clicked her needles incessantly and regretted lost time and lost love; Tom rocked in his chair, unleashing his bored rage by shooting rabbits and roos; poor, deranged Nell wished she could fly away from it all.

She did, after a manner of speaking, when the Man appeared. But then their marriage became just like that of the old folk, and the dogs howled once more in the outback.

Alison Bauld's new ballad-opera was commissioned by Midsummer Opera to mark the Australian bicentenary and, despite Alan Privett's desperately hard-working production, the bold cameos of Lorraine and David Skewes and Gwion Thomas, and Jenny Miller's outstanding portrait of Nell herself, there was little to celebrate at its London premiere.

It was like one brief moment from Tennessee Williams, transplanted into the arid interior; but

it lasted an hour and felt like three. Ms Bauld had simply stretched her material — dialogue, ballads, shrieks, cries, sneezes and moans — across too wide a canvas.

More worthwhile was *Van Diemen's Land*, a short piece by Bauld for unaccompanied voices, commissioned by the BBC in 1976 and describing the voyage, from Portsmouth to Tasmania, of just such a group of emigrants and would-be settlers as peopled the barren land of Nell.

Production was redundant. With a little discreet help from the lighting of Steve Grottores, David Roblou conducted his hooded and bearded ensemble — the defeated Captain, the frenzied mother, the bewildered surgeon and the convicts — with incisive and concentrated skill. Tongue and teeth became the lash of the spray and the breathing of the sea, hands clapped into being the wings of albatross and moth, and Midsummer Opera once again reinforced their high reputation for enterprise, imagination and vivid ensemble work.

Hilary Finch

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

The incoming chairman of the Royal Opera House is not Lord Sainsbury, as was stated in an article on May 28, but Sir John Sainsbury. The present general administrator, Sir John Tooley, joined in 1955, not 1970.

THE ROYAL OPERA
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Production: Elmhurst Productions Director: John Napier

Musician: Eleanor Farnham

Cost: Includes

Renato Bruson, Elizabeth Connell, Giovanni Howell,

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FRIDAY PAGE

Keeping an eye on the box

As the sex and violence debate rages
Liz Gill examines a parental dilemma

The ITN newscaster Carol Barnes spends much of her professional life watching footage of death and destruction from every corner of the world. At home she finds herself agonizing over whether to let the children watch *Jaws*.

It is a dilemma echoed in countless homes, where domestic versions of the great sex and violence television debate currently engaging the new Broadcasting Standards Council are played out every day. Unlike the council, a parent's watchdog role usually includes quantity as well as quality.

Research into the subject can confuse as much as enlighten. An IBA survey earlier this year found that a 60 per cent majority thought there was too much violence on television yet were hard pressed to be specific. *The A-Team*, regularly condemned by campaigners, was seen as harmless entertainment by three out of four. The same survey revealed that 90 per cent thought parents should take greater care over their children's viewing.

There is, of course, an inevitable gap between theory and practice. Clare Byrne, a director of the Children's Research Unit, recalls one study which discovered that mothers underestimated children's viewing time and over-estimated parental-child interaction.

"It's not a deliberate attempt to mislead, it's more an idealized view - especially higher up the socio-economic scale," she says. "They like to think their children are reading or playing the piano when in fact they've got up early to watch *Batman*."

Carol Barnes recognizes the problem: "I know they'll sneak back in to watch *EastEnders* when they're supposed to be going to bed."

She tries to limit viewing to an hour a day during the week and perhaps double that at weekends, and has no real taboos. "If something upsets me then I don't really want them to see it. Things that worry me most are programmes like *The A-Team* because you cannot see the repercussions and violence, that

if you blast guns people get hurt. I do let them watch the early evening news. I think if they're going to see violence it might as well be real."

Sarah Boardman, an educational psychologist and mother of four daughters aged between 15 months and seven, has one firm rule about television: they are not allowed to switch on any of the family's three sets without asking. She is happy enough about an hour's worth of children's programmes to relax them at the end of a school day, but after that she begins to get uneasy.

"It's mainly because so much of the stuff seems so very low quality. It seems a waste of time. They love *Neighbours*, for instance, which strikes me as dreadful, but I'd be in terrible trouble if I banned it."

"But I wouldn't want them to watch *EastEnders*, partly because they should be in bed and partly because I don't want to have to keep explaining things that may be too adult and too complex. I'm most concerned about programmes that link sex and violence."

Professionally she has seen scores of children with behavioural problems. "I don't think in general television can be held responsible for children's actions, but disturbed children who have less ability to distinguish between reality and fantasy are more susceptible."

Sheila Waters has seen plenty of victims of violence and sexual abuse, as a police sergeant in one of Glasgow's toughest areas and a former member of Strathclyde's female and child unit. She has also seen homes where the television set blared forth from morning until night. She makes no direct link between the two, but prefers to err on the side of caution with her own seven-year-old daughter, Gillian, who watches about an hour a day and on Saturday mornings.

"She really likes *Neighbours*, it's a big thing at school. It seems harmless nonsense. Apart from that, she likes the children's programmes and the cartoons, which strike me as incredibly violent. It's difficult to know what children will like sometimes. For instance she



A close watch: Carol Barnes, the ITN newscaster, monitors the television diet of Clare, aged 8, and James, 6

loved *A Passage to India* so much she watched it again on the video. I encourage her to watch wildlife programmes but in one, *The Flight of the Condor*, she was very upset when a baby deer got killed."

Rosie Barnes, the SDP MP for Greenwich, worries less about television now with her three-year-old son Joseph than she did when Danny, aged 15, and Daisy, aged 12, were small.

She says: "The only real rule is that they mustn't watch something violent while Joseph is around. Danny is old enough to make his own rules and he seems pretty sensible and sensible. And my daughter is very selective. She likes *EastEnders*, *Neighbours*, *Girls on Top*, *Blackadder* and *Wildlife on One*, though I think that's a concession to me. Anyway, wildlife programmes are full of sex and violence."

"The trouble is, most of their viewing is done while I'm out and I suspect the nanny is very conspiratorial and would side with them."

"I don't really mind about the sexual content unless it's linked with violence. Besides, they've got to the age where they cringe and leave the room if we're in the room when a sexy scene comes on. When Michelle had an abortion in *EastEnders* I found them discussing it and I was rather impressed with their grasp of the issues."

The amount of television children watch is unclear. An IBA report three years ago found that its sample of 468 aged from four to 14 had seen around 40 programmes each that week, with the lower socio-economic groups watching the most. A year ago an Exeter University project with 11- to 15-year-olds found an average viewing level of 2.2 to 2.8 hours a night. Such averages conceal a vast range of habits. Parental guidance is equally varied. One survey had almost as many parents recommending *Dynasty* as banning it.

Psychologist Cathy Murphy, who examined pre-school programmes for a research fellowship at Nottingham University, found that most of

the women regarded television as a sop. "They believed it was a poor substitute for other things, but if they were tired or busy they felt that letting the child watch TV was a better alternative to strangling it."

In fact, figures suggest that families watch less television (22 hours a week) than single people (36 hours a week). And, the IBA's most recent research claims, television could help family togetherness; it involves collective decisions and provides topics of conversation.

Cary Bazalgette, of the British Film Institute's education section, is one of the people involved in setting up British Action for Children's Television, to press for informed debate and the development of children's critical faculties. She believes parents should stop feeling guilty, accept television as a reality of modern life (98 per cent of homes have it) and start looking for opportunities to talk and think about it.

Better, she says, to remember the words of the Italian critic, Umberto Eco: "Don't switch off your set; switch on your critical freedom."

FIRST PERSON

Mary Dejevsky

Locked out of clubland

At the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, the single-sex college has been an anachronism for a decade or more. But come to the capital, and the one London club which would seem by its name to cater for graduates of the two universities - the Oxford and Cambridge in Pall Mall - lives in another age.

As a journalist working in the advance guard of the newspaper revolution beyond Tower Bridge, I wanted a central London base, a congenial place to entertain guests - many of them from abroad - and somewhere to have a quiet drink before the theatre. Where better than an established London club?

My guests would have no difficulty in finding it - the cab-driver would know at once where to take them. They would be able to sit in comfort if, as the combination of an unpredictable schedule and the London traffic can mean, I am late: a polite word from the porter would reassure them that they were in the right place on the right day and I would be with them shortly.

Club membership also held the hope of an end to the difficulties which beset any woman who entertains out: obtaining a secluded table, attracting prompt service and persuading the waiter to hand the wine list and the bill to me, rather than to my (male) guest. A club could be accustomed to the idea that I was the host.

There I was wrong. My inquiry about membership was answered in the following terms: "Candidates, ladies excepted, must have either matriculated, been admitted member of any College of Hall, or have been granted 'MA' status at Oxford or Cambridge University." So much for having passed the Oxford entrance examination along with the men, taken the same finals papers as the men, and turned up alongside my male contemporaries to take my MA.

The advice continued in similar vein: "Candidates must be proposed and seconded by two male members. Ladies only require one proposer if a close relation acts." Unfortunately, Daddy is not a member of the Oxford and

Cambridge. Nor is my husband. But even if he were, would I - as a woman with my own job and my own salary - want him to ease my passage into society like this?

Despite these misgivings I persisted, for the Oxford and Cambridge advertised one compelling advantage for someone like me working in the eastern part of town. It has a "full reciprocal arrangement with the City University Club at 50 Cornhill, London EC3". Well, it depends what you mean by "full". "This," the letter said, "is a lunch club for gentlemen only."

There are certainly benefits in being a "lady associate member" of the Oxford and Cambridge. Not only do you not have to have been to



Oxford or Cambridge, but you pay a smaller fee. And, with the exception of the reciprocal dining arrangements, you have access to most of the facilities. But women like me - Oxford and Cambridge graduates who pursued a career - are both willing and able to pay the full fee in return for full membership.

As a novice to the world of London clubs, I had approached the Oxford and Cambridge in the belief that it was the one club for which I was, by virtue of my degree, unquestionably qualified. There was no point in writing to the Athenaeum or the RAC or the Travellers - even I knew that they were incorrigible male preserves. But the Oxford and Cambridge? Surely it would cater for all graduates of the two universities. Perhaps the new generation of Oxbridge co-eds will persuade it to change its rules.

Barbara Amiel is on holiday

Invisible is beautiful

The Beautiful People are easy prey for a photographer's lens. Ladies Who Lunch have been known to walk out and re-enter a room for the sake of a snap in their latest Lacroix. Nouvelle Société's reckless spending has been a cinch to record. But John Fairchild, inventor of these chic cliques and publisher of fashion's most powerful trade paper *Women's Wear Daily* (plus *W*, a weekly colour broadsheet edition, *Ad* for menswear and the youthful *Scene* for the budding BP), is the first to admit that he has given himself a tricky task in rounding up names and pictures of the in-crowd he is currently cultivating.

His newest smart set neither throw ostentatious parties nor pose for paparazzi in couture frocks. They seldom allow their houses to be splashed across the pages of *Maison et Jardin* or *HG*, and when they write a cheque for charity they do not hold a white-tie "benefit" in the Plaza for the purpose. Fairchild, the *monstre sacré* of the international fashion world and manipulator of Manhattan's social scene, has, perversely, picked as successors to Nouvelle Société a group of men and women so civilized and discreetly chic that they remain a mystery to most. They are the Invisible People.

The man who terrorizes the fashion industry on both sides of the Atlantic and regularly updates all that is "in" and "out", is this week up an alp. Cloistered in his chalet in Klosters, musing on his memoirs (working title: *Fashionable Savages*), he emerges only to stick flags on endangered species of plants. Is Fairchild an Invisible Man?

John Burr Fairchild, Kent and Princeton graduate, is clearly a candidate. He despises conspicuous consumption. Minions from *Eye*, the fearless gossip column in *WWD*, are sent to deputize for him at charity balls and fashionable parties. He ridicules the stretch limousines that await his neighbours on Manhattan's Upper East Side each morning. He takes the \$1 subway ride from his Sutton Place apartment to the downtown headquarters of Fairchild Publications, the family firm founded by his grandfather that was sold in the

The publisher who terrorizes the smart set on both sides of the Atlantic believes in inconspicuous consumption

CARL GLASSMAN



John Fairchild: the fashionable publisher keeps a low profile

Sixties to ABC for \$30 million. As chairman and chief executive, he still relishes his job of editor in chief. "I love being a reporter," he says. His office is lined with covers of *W* and *M*. "What's hot NOW," screams a cover line on *M*. "That's what sells. But First Ladies," he prods one cover-girl, Nancy Reagan. "They're the kiss of death on the newstand. We learn the hard way."

Explaining the imminent changes of cast in the columns of *Eye*, Fairchild says he has had enough of Nouvelle Société. "Let's discover people who really do something worthwhile and make the world a pleasant place for all of us," he says, and rattles off names. Will John Seumarez Smith of Heywood Hill, London's elegant booksellers, or

Anthony Lee who welcomes guests at Fairchild's favourite London hotel, the Connaught, be happy about their impending fashionable status in Fairchild's latest list, alongside elegant society luminaries like Evangeline Bruce or the Parisian banker Michel David-Weil and his wife Hélène? "People are very fed up with blatant extravagance," Fairchild says. "The Invisible People have the real power."

It is with such perverse and autocratic decisions in *WWD*'s relentless gossip column that the mischievous Fairchild manipulates the paranoia among those who *Vanity Fair* described as "the three most insecure sections of the population of New York - gay fashion designers, Jewish garment manufacturers and

would-be socialites". He discovers and builds up design stars, then plasters Right/Wrong stickers across their clothes. Wobbly Wasps are sent up. Ladies who Lunch are teased, their uniformly up-swept coiffure ridiculed.

Bianca Jagger was "out" one week for eating potato chips while wearing satin gloves. Mrs Nan Kempner has been "out" for years for doing nothing more than being too obviously "in". "She throws herself in front of the cameras," Fairchild sniffs.

Fairchild, invariably soberly dressed in Brooks Brothers button-downs and quiet tailoring, married for 37 years to his English wife Jill McFarlane, spends much of the year in Europe, holidaying in Klosters and his 17th-century farmhouse in Provence, and courting his favourite Paris couturiers. (France rewarded Fairchild for his support of couture with a Legion d'Honneur and a Fashion Oscar).

London's Vivienne Westwood and Jean Muir are rated highly, as is Armani in Milan. But to the obvious dissatisfaction of his Seventh Avenue compatriots, fashion begins and ends in Paris for Fairchild. For 20 years, he was Yves Saint Laurent's most fervent fan. Two seasons ago there was a rift, allegedly because of Fairchild's enthusiasm for the newcomer Lacroix, which has now been smoothed over. "Don't blame me," Fairchild says. "They chose to dis-invite us to the show."

Fairchild turns people into celebrities and then despises them for seeking publicity. "This hardly bodes well for the Invisible People who made their official entrée in *Eye* recently. Money, money, money," it ran. "While the French presidential election was ostensibly a struggle between Left and Right, it really boiled down to a battle over the beloved Franch franc... France's Beautiful People, faced with a new wealth tax, will become the new Invisible People: no big fees, no ostentatious displays, fewer expensive dresses."

No high-visibility people? *WWD* just won't be the same.

Liz Smith



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EDDIE MURPHY RAW (18): The black comedian's one-man show, high on energy but short on comedy. (Cannon Edmore Road (01-723 5901). Progs 2.00, 4.15, 6.25, 8.40, 11.25. 12.30, 2.30, 4.45, 7.00, 9.15, 11.30.)

IRONWED (15): Worthy but stodgy adaptation of William Kennedy's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel about a derelict (Jack Nicholson) in search of redemption. Artistic director Julian Lloyd Webber. (Cannon Edmore Road (01-723 5901). Progs 1.40, 4.50, 6.10, 8.25, 11.15.)

THE LAST EMPEROR (15): Bernardo Bertolucci's gorgeously photographed epic tells the extraordinary story of Puyi, China's last imperial ruler, who lived to become a model Communist citizen. (Cannon Edmore Road (01-723 5901). Progs 1.40, 4.50, 6.10, 8.25, 11.15.)

THE UNBEARABLE LIGHTNESS OF BEING (18): Philip Kaufman's massive and majestic adaptation of Milan Kundera's novel, a story of love and political consciousness set against the Russian invasion of Czechoslovakia. (Cannon Edmore Road (01-723 5901). Progs 1.40, 4.50, 6.10, 8.25, 11.15.)

WALL STREET (15): Oliver Stone's impressively staged but wordy drama about the rise and fall of stock market manipulator Michael Douglas. (Cannon Edmore Road (01-723 5901). Progs 1.40, 4.50, 6.10, 8.25, 11.15.)

MOONSTRUCK (PG): Should Cher play it safe and marry Danny Aiello, or follow her heart and go for his brother, Nicolas Cage? Norman Jewison took the Best Director award at the Berlin Film Festival and Cher the Best Actress Oscar (102 min). (Cannon Edmore Road (01-723 5901). Progs 1.40, 4.50, 6.10, 8.25, 11.15.)

PLANES, TRAINS AND AUTOMOBILES (15): An advertising executive (Steve Martin) and a showbiz curtain ring salesman (Candy) on a nightmare journey from New York to Chicago (100 min). (Cannon Edmore Road (01-723 5901). Progs 1.40, 4.50, 6.10, 8.25, 11.15.)

A PRAYER FOR THE DYING (15): Overcooked melodrama with Mickey Rourke as an IRA hit-man on the run in England (107 min). (Cannon Edmore Road (01-723 5901). Progs 1.40, 4.50, 6.10, 8.25, 11.15.)

PRICE OF DARRINNESS (18): The Devil's at large, raining steel and creeping-crawling on the luckless cast. John Carpenter writes and directs (101 min). (Cannon Edmore Road (01-723 5901). Progs 1.40, 4.50, 6.10, 8.25, 11.15.)

WORD-WATCHING
Answers from page 24

KNIGHT OF THE POST
(b) A man who had stood in the pillory or been flogged at the whipping-post; hence one who haunted the courts ready to give false witness, or bail for a debtor for pay, etc.

KNIGHT OF THE SWAN
(b) Lehngrün, a son of Percival attached to the Grail circle, he arrives in Antwerp in a skiff drawn by a swan, champions Elsa, and becomes her husband on the sale and dicey condition that she shall not ask his name or his lineage.

CROSS-LEGGED KNIGHTS
(c) Crusaders are usually represented on their tombs with crossed legs; *Hadilines* "From him descended cross-legged knights, / Famed for their faith and war-like fights."

KNIGHT SERVICE
(c) The tenure of land in feudal times on the condition of rendering military service to the Crown for 40 days; by the reign of Edward III knights were paid for their military service.

Cannon Oxford Street (01-536 0310).
Progs 1.55, 3.55, 6.10, 8.25, 11.15.
Cannon Prince Charles (01-437 8181).
Progs 1.50, 3.50, 6.05, 8.20, 11.15.

THREE MEN AND A CRIB (PG): Brash Hollywood remake of a flimsy French success. Tom Selleck, Ted Danson and Steve Guttenberg play confirmed bachelors suddenly thrust into the problems of baby-care. (Leonard Nimoy directs. (103 min). Cannon Edmore Road (01-723 5901). Progs 1.30, 3.50, 6.05, 8.25, 11.20.)

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KNIGHT OF THE SWAN
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CROSS-LEGGED KNIGHTS
(c) Crusaders are usually represented on their tombs with crossed legs; *Hadilines* "From him descended cross-legged knights, / Famed for their faith and war-like fights."

KNIGHT SERVICE
(c) The tenure of land in feudal times on the condition of rendering military service to the Crown for 40 days; by the reign of Edward III knights were paid for their military service.

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String time: Julian Lloyd Webber, artistic director of the three-day South Bank Cellothon, with former pupils of the London Suzuki Group

Webber's celebration of the cello

An unusual music festival, the Martin Cellothon, starts on the South Bank today. Its artistic director, Julian Lloyd Webber, says this three-day event is "a celebration of the cello and British cello playing, which is now the envy of the world". The centrepiece of tonight's opening programme is Webber's own performance, with the City of London Sinfonia under Richard Hickox, of *Frank Bridge's Oration (Concerto Elegiac)*, a great yet almost unknown work. There are further Queen Elizabeth Hall

concerts on Saturday and Sunday, with solo cello playing by Robert Cohen and Ralph Walfrich respectively. Daytime happenings include the Endellion Quartet plus Shura Wilson performing Schubert's Quintet and the Irish cellist Daire Fitzgerald playing Beethoven and Schubert. There are masterclasses with Amartyas Fleming and with the London Suzuki Group. A lecture, "The Great Cellists as Players and People", by Margaret Campbell is illustrated by archive recordings, and there is

archive film of Rostropovich, Feuermann and Piatigorsky, including the last giving the European premiere of Walton's Cello Concerto. Ben Davis plays jazz cello from 10pm onwards at the Archduke wine bar not a million miles from the South Bank halls, and they are even screening *Deception*, the Bette Davis film in which Paul Henreid plays an errant cellist. South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191, or 01-928 8800).

Max Harrison.

ROCK

★ **DAVID SYLVIAN:** The quiet aesthete presents music of glacial pace with a group including his former Japan colleagues Steve Jansen (drums) and Richard Barbieri (keyboards). Manchester Apollo, Ardwick Green (061 273 3775) 7.30pm, £5.50-£7.50.

★ **SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK:** The joyous a cappella quartet from Washington, led by Dr Bernice Johnson Reason. Their new album, *Live At The Carnegie Hall*, is available on Cooking Vinyl.

★ **LETICE AND LOVAGE:** Maggie Smith and Margaret Tzack waging eccentric war against the modern world in Peter Shaffer's new comedy. Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (01-437 3587). Tube: Piccadilly. Mon-Sat 7.45-10.15pm, mat Sat 3-5.30pm, £7.50-£15. (D)

★ **UNCLE VANYA:** Michael Gambon in the title role, with Jonathan Pryce and other splendid names in Michael Bleaney's production. Vaudeville Theatre, Strand, WC2 (01-836 9888). Tube: Charing Cross. Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.30pm, mat Sat 3pm and Wed 5.30pm, £7.50-£15. (D)

★ **WINGWING:** Robert Hardy and Virginia McKenna in million pound musical about Churchill's war: set in a Berlin light opera house with hits of the period and new songs. Victoria Palace Theatre, Victoria Street, SW1 (01-834 1317). Tube: Victoria. Mon-Sat 7.45-10.15pm, £7.50-£15.50.

★ **LONG RUNNERS:** ★ Beyond Ravelette Debut: Queens Theatre (01-734 1166). ★ The Business of Murder: Mayfair Theatre (01-629 3038). ★ Cats: New London Theatre (01-405 0072, or 01-404 4073). ★ Les Liaisons Dangereuses: Ambassadors Theatre (01-836 6111). ★ Me and My Girl: Adelphi Theatre (01-240 7913/14). ★ Les Misérables: Palace Theatre (01-434 0509). ★ The Mousetrap: St Martin's Theatre (01-836 1443). ★ Phantom of the Opera: Her Majesty's Theatre (01-836 8888). ★ Les Liaisons Dangereuses: Ambassadors Theatre (01-836 6111). ★ Me and My Girl: Adelphi Theatre (01-240 7913/14). ★ Les Misérables: Palace Theatre (01-434 0509). ★ The Mousetrap: St Martin's Theatre (01-836 1443). ★ Phantom of the Opera: Her Majesty's Theatre (01-836 8888). ★ Les Liaisons Dangereuses: Ambassadors Theatre (01-836 6111). ★ Me and My Girl: Adelphi Theatre (01-240 7913/14). ★ Les Misérables: Palace Theatre (01-434 0509). ★ The Mousetrap: St Martin's Theatre (01-836 1443). ★ Phantom of the Opera: Her Majesty's 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TELEVISION AND RADIO

BBC1

6.00 *Celestial AM*. 6.30 *Leen Enn in Ho Asked for It* (b/w). 6.55 *Weather*. 7.00 *Breakfast Time* with John Stapleton and Sally Jones. Includes national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; regional news and travel reports at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; and weather at 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25. 8.55 *Regional news and weather* followed by *Celestial* presented by Colin Haywood beginning with *Big Top Science*. This last programme of the series explores memory 9.25 *Laurel and Hardy* (r). 9.30 *The Really Wild Show* (r). 10.00 *News and weather* followed by *Charlie Brown*. Cartoon series (r). 10.35 *Play School* (r). 10.50 *Cricket: First Test*. Live coverage of the morning's play on the second day of the game at Trent Bridge between England and the West Indies. Includes news and weather at 10.55. 11.30 *News and weather* followed by President Reagan at Whitehall. President Reagan's speech on the future of East-West relations, with commentary by David Goodhart. 11.55 *Children Talking*. Gerald Harrison asks children from Lancashire about "going to the moon". 12.45 *Miniature Gardeners*. (r). 12.55 *Regional news and weather*. 1.00 *One O'Clock News* with Michael Bueri. 1.30 *Weather*. 1.55 *News and weather* followed by *Monty Python's Flying Circus*. 2.00 *News and weather* followed by *Bill Wynn's five-month, five-city tour*, beginning in Norwich, recording the music of young

BBC2

6.55 *Open University: Science - Energy and Rockets*. Ends at 7.25. 7.30 *Cricket: First Test* continued from BBC1. 7.55 *Weekend Outlook* (r). 1.20 *Benji* (r). 1.35 *Go! and Cricket*. Second round action in the Dunhill British Masters from the Woburn Golf and Country Club; and the opening overs of the afternoon session of the second day's play at Trent Bridge in the game between England and the West Indies. 2.00 *News and weather* followed by *You and Me* (r). 2.15 *Cricket and Show Jumping*. Further second round action in the Dunhill British Masters; at Trent Bridge, the second day of the first Test between England and the West Indies; at Hickstead, the Everest Double Glazing Trophy. Includes news and weather at 3.00 and 3.50. 3.55 *Film: The Falcon's Brother* (1942, b/w) starring George Sanders and Tom Conway. While investigating his brother's supposed suicide, the Falcon learns that his brother was involved with a woman and follows her to a show where she is shot dead. Directed by Stanley Logan. 7.05 *The Phil Silvers Show* (b/w). When Bilko borrows \$200 from his platoon's welfare fund he decides a plan to make up the loss by luring Bing Crosby to the camp to entertain the troops (r). 7.30 *Artists on Film*. The first of a new series of four programmes featuring major British painters and sculptors at work, gleaned from the BBC's film archives. This evening Augustus John is seen in a 1950s interview; Henry Moore at work in his studio in 1951, 1973 and 1978; and in 1957 L. S. Lowry paints one of his matchstick works and talks about his paintings. 8.00 *Weekend*. Guy Michelmore, with a preview of places to go - and avoid - and things to do in the south and east areas this weekend. (see Variations for other regions' programmes)



Tammy Wynette: The first lady of country music (BBC2, 9.30pm)
9.30 *Gardeners' World* from Barnsley with Geoff Hamilton and John Kelly planting out tender plants and some acquired at last week's Chelsea Flower Show. 9.40 *Blackadder the Third*. The Prince Regent's fly butler receives a visit from a Scottish cousin who has it in his power to save the life of Blackadder when it is threatened by the Duke of Wellington (r). (see text) 9.50 *Stand by Your Dream* - Tammy Wynette. An arena documentary in which the celebrated country singer talks frankly about her career and her five husbands (r). 10.30 *Newsnight* includes a special report from Charles Wheeler on President Reagan's visit to London and his speech at the Guildhall. Presented by Donald MacCormick. 11.15 *Weather*. 11.30 *Cricket: First Test*. Highlights of the second day's play in the game at Trent Bridge between England and the West Indies, introduced by Richie Benaud. 11.50 *Film: Kangchenjunga* (1987) starring Chhabi Biswas. A wealthy and acquisitive man is taught to appreciate the finer things in life when he meets an unemployed young man in the Himalayan foothills. Directed by Satyajit Ray. Ends at 1.35am

ITV LONDON

6.00 TV-am begins with *The Morning Programme* presented by Mike Morris; 7.00 *Good Morning Britain* includes a report from Paul Newman in Marseille on the forthcoming French general election. 8.00 *Wecadey* for children introduced by Timmy Mallett. 9.25 *Thames news*. 9.30 *Crossfire*. Word game hosted by Tom O'Connor. The guests are Nerys Hughes and Alfred Marks. 10.00 *Santa Barbara*. 10.25 *News headlines*. 10.30 *The Time... The Place...* Mike Scott chairs a discussion on an topical subject 11.10 *Rainbow*. Learning series for children (r). 11.25 *Thames news headlines*. 11.30 *Voices in the Dark*. Episode one of a two-part drama about the effect on a 15-year-old of the break-up of her parents' marriage. Starring Siobhan O'Carroll, Philip Lowrie and Elizabeth Sinclair (r). 12.00 *The Krypton Factor*. The 1994 final, introduced by Gordon Burns (r). 12.30 *The Sullivan*. Drama serial about an Australian family during the 1940s. 1.00 *News at One* with Julia Somerville. 1.20 *Thames news*. 1.30 *Randall & Hopkirk*. Detective series (r). 2.30 *9 to 5*. American comedy series about office life. 3.00 *Take the High Road*. Dougal Macrae's western series. Half expecting; and the successful bid for the house in the village is made public. 3.25 *Thames news headlines*. 3.30 *Santa Barbara*. 3.55 *News and weather*. 4.00 *Button Moon* (r). 4.10 *The Telegraph* (r). 4.20 *Scooby Doo*. 4.45 *Splash* visits Bristol and Bath. 5.15 *Winner Takes All*. Family quiz game. 5.45 *News with Flora Armstrong*. 6.00 *The 6 O'Clock News*, introduced by Michael Aspel.

CHANNEL 4

12.00 President Reagan's speech on the future of East-West relations live from the Guildhall in the City of London. 12.40 *Business Daily*. Financial and business news service presented by John Plender. 1.00 *On Course*. The Open College's weekly magazine series for trainees presented by Anna Ford. 2.00 *Symphony*. The third of a three-part documentary following the stages of a suite by Howard Goodall, *Land of the Lakes*, from its composition, through its interpretation by conductor Richard Hickox to today's programme, rehearsals of the work by the Northern Sinfonia (r). 2.30 *Channel 4 Racing* from Epsom. Hugh Scott introduces coverage of the Epsom Stakes (2.30); the Sun Life of Canada Anniversary Stakes (3.00); the Northern Dancer Stakes (3.40); and the Tokyo Trophy (4.10). The race commentator is Graham Goode. 4.30 *Countdown*. Yesterday's winner of the words and numbers game is challenged by Kathleen Vickers from Hackney, London. Richard Whitley is the questionmaster assisted with the dictionary by Nigel Rees. 5.00 *Master Ed* (b/w). Vintage American comedy series starring Alan Young as a man with a talking horse. 5.30 *Street Hockey*. The first of four programmes covering the sport's top tournament, the National Championship, held in Leicester. Today's programme features two quarter-final matches: the Talcott Titans against the Talcott Titans Redskins; and the Street Raiders versus the Enforcers (r). 6.00 *The Chart Show*. 7.00 *Channel 4 News* with Nicholas Owen and David Weather. 7.55 *Channel 4 News*. Oliver Letwin's investigation into the privatization revolution, *Privatising the World*, is reviewed by economist Frances Cairncross. (Oracle) 8.00 *What the Papers Say* with Michael Leapor.



Sandy Ratcliff and Malcolm Tierney: A schizophrenic study (C4, 12.15am)
8.15 *Dispatches*. (see Choice) 9.00 *The Comedy Show*. Domestic comedy series. (Oracle) 9.30 *A Gardener's Guide*. Programme eight of the 10-part series for the novice gardener focuses on tree planting and includes four seasonal visits to the Westons in Gloucestershire where the staff suggest trees suitable for smaller gardens. (Oracle) 10.00 *Cheers*. Comedy series set in a Boston bar. Tonight, as Frasier and Lilith's wedding day approaches, the boys decide to throw a stag party for the groom. But Frasier, after a lot of drink and fun, decides to call Lilith to tell her that he prefers the bachelor life. (Oracle) 10.30 *The Last Resort*. Jonathan Ross's guests this week are Tracey Ullman, Shaun Harrison, and an Italian lady named Sabrina. 11.15 *Wired*. This week's edition of the pop music programme includes performances by Julia Fordham, the Sound of Lad Zeppelin and Hall & Oates. 12.15 *Film: Family Life* (1971) starring Sandy Ratcliff and Bill Dean. Drama about a teenage London girl who slides into schizophrenia through a combination of parental misunderstanding and clinical misjudgement. Directed by Ken Loach. Ends at 2.15.

VARIATIONS

BBC1 WALES 6.30pm-6.00 *Wales Today* 6.30-7.00 *News* 7.00-7.30 *Weather* 7.30-8.00 *Regional news* 8.00-8.30 *Regional news* 8.30-9.00 *Regional news* 9.00-9.30 *Regional news* 9.30-10.00 *Regional news* 10.00-10.30 *Regional news* 10.30-11.00 *Regional news* 11.00-11.30 *Regional news* 11.30-12.00 *Regional news* 12.00-12.30 *Regional news* 12.30-1.00 *Regional news* 1.00-1.30 *Regional news* 1.30-2.00 *Regional news* 2.00-2.30 *Regional news* 2.30-3.00 *Regional news* 3.00-3.30 *Regional news* 3.30-4.00 *Regional news* 4.00-4.30 *Regional news* 4.30-5.00 *Regional news* 5.00-5.30 *Regional news* 5.30-6.00 *Regional news* 6.00-6.30 *Regional news* 6.30-7.00 *Regional news* 7.00-7.30 *Regional news* 7.30-8.00 *Regional news* 8.00-8.30 *Regional news* 8.30-9.00 *Regional news* 9.00-9.30 *Regional news* 9.30-10.00 *Regional news* 10.00-10.30 *Regional news* 10.30-11.00 *Regional news* 11.00-11.30 *Regional news* 11.30-12.00 *Regional news* 12.00-12.30 *Regional news* 12.30-1.00 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By Andrew Morgan

The King's Cross Action Group demanded to know precise details of plans.



100

FRIDAY JUNE 3 1988

MARKETS	THE POUND
FT 30 Share 1443.4 (+3.8)	US dollar 1.7980 (-0.0260)
FT-SE 100 1810.3 (+4.6)	W German mark 3.1069 (-0.0431)
USM (Datastream) 157.09 (+1.78)	Trade-weighted 76.5 (-0.8)

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

HK market overhaul welcomed

Hong Kong's authorities and financial community generally welcomed a report on the stock exchange and futures market by the Securities Review Committee headed by Mr Ian Hay Davison.

The report recommends a new look exchange council, a new clearing system and an enlarged independent securities commission.

Mr Piers Jacobs, the Crown Colony's Financial Secretary, said he had already set up a group of government officers to deal with recommendations.

Mr Robert Yue, chairman of the existing stock exchange management committee, said: "The report is clearly a landmark in the development of the securities industry in Hong Kong."

Mr David Li, a leading banker and legislative councillor, said Hong Kong could not be a credible financial centre unless the chief recommendations were accepted.

Mr Phillip Thorpe, vice-chairman of the Futures Exchange, said he was pleased that the committee wanted to see continued existence of the futures market.

But the Hong Kong Stock-brokers Association questioned whether the proposals were workable.

Report, page 26

STOCK MARKETS

New York	2056.37 (-7.84)
Tokyo	27889.36 (+105.45)
Hong Kong	2546.67 (+30.43)
Amsterdam Gen	248.0 (+1.1)
Sydney AO	1564.0 (-21.8)
Commerzbank	Closed
Brussels	
General	4740.6 (+19.3)
Paris CAC	3349 (-2.0)
Zurich SKA Gen	496.5 (+46.4)
London:	
FT-All Share	934.42 (+1.65)
FT-100	1021.83 (+1.49)
FT-Gold Mines	224.0 (-0.5)
FT-Fixed Interest	98.38 (+0.02)
FT-Govt Secs	88.50 (-0.1)
Recent issues	Page 28
Closing prices	Page 28

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISERS:	
ICI	944p (+19p)
RHP	205p (+20p)
Rosebrough	780p (+11p)
Rubert	230p (+13p)
Solar	200p (+10p)
Unilever	454p (+10p)
IMI	194p (+10p)
SEET	165p (+15p)
Enterprise	410p (+15p)
BAT	429p (+10p)
Long Prop	456p (+13p)
Edbro	232p (+14p)

FALLS:	
Century	182p (-22p)
Schroders	850p (-25p)
Broken Hill	368p (-16p)
Speyhawk	377p (-21p)
MEPC	549p (-12p)
Christie Int	549p (-10p)
Cadbury	404p (-9p)
Closing prices	
Bargains	27781

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	8%
3-month interbank	8% 9/16%
3-month eligible bills	7 1/2% 7 3/4%
buying rate	
US Prime Rate	9%
Federal Funds 7 1/4%	
3-month Treasury Bills	6.45-6.44%
30-year bonds	9 1/2% 10%

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£ \$1.7980	\$ £1.8005
£ DM3.1069	DM £1.7248
£ Sfr2.5882	Sfr £1.5882
£ FF5.8350	FF £1.8350
£ Yen227.53	Yen £1.2275
£ Index 76.5	Index £1.765
ECU £0.664714	SDR £0.748043

GOLD

London:	New York:
AM \$454.60 pm \$453.70	close \$453.50-454.00 (\$252.50-253.00)
New York:	
Comex \$454.20-454.70	

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (July) pm \$16.70bbl (\$16.67)	
* Denotes latest trading price	

THE TIMES STOCK WATCH

0898 141 141

- Stockwatch gives instant access to more than 10,000 share, unit trust and bond prices. The information you require is on the following telephone numbers:
- Stock market comment: General market 0898 121220; Company news 0898 121221; Active shares 0898 121225; USM 0898 121250.
- Quick check of share prices: Leaders A-K 0898 121240; Leaders L-Z 0898 121241; Popular shares 0898 121277.
- Details, page 28.

Cost of borrowing could go up again Base rate rise fails to halt pound slide

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

A second rise in base rates, possibly as early as today, was on the cards last night as sterling failed to respond to a Bank of England-led rate rise from 7.5 per cent to 8 per cent.

The pound fell by 4.3 pence to DM3.1069, 9 pence below the level reached in European trading on Monday. It also dropped by 2.6 cents to \$1.7980, while the sterling index fell by 0.8 points to 76.5.

Dealers said there was no sign of the pound's sharp fall, which began on Tuesday, coming to an end. Even some late profit-taking in the dollar, which had risen strongly, benefited the mark rather than sterling.

Money market interest rates closed sharply higher, with the

three-month interbank rate up by 1/4 points at 8 1/4 per cent, consistent with a further half-point increase in base rates.

"The market is certainly looking for another half-point on rates," said Mr Dick Howard, economist at Capel-Cure Myers, the broker. "I would be surprised if they will allow the pound to go much below DM3.10."

Treasury officials said that yesterday's increase represented an unwinding of the last cut in base rates, on May 17. They added that recent moves did not necessarily imply a permanent increase in interest-rate volatility.

Although the pound's fall and the rise in base rates represents a return to the

policy mix favoured by the Treasury and the Bank of England, there was official concern yesterday about the pace of sterling's slide, on relatively little new information.

Bank of England officials said the increase in base rates was a measured response to the steepness of sterling's slide. But they gave warning not to look for precise symmetry in the response to the pound's fall, in comparison with its earlier strong rise.

Base rates were last increased in February, when they were raised from 8.5 per cent to 9 per cent. Following sterling's rise, there were three base-rate reductions, at just below DM3.11, at DM3.14 and at DM3.18.

This means that when ster-

ling was last at DM3.10, base rates were 8.5 or 9 per cent, implying that the present position represents some slackening of monetary conditions.

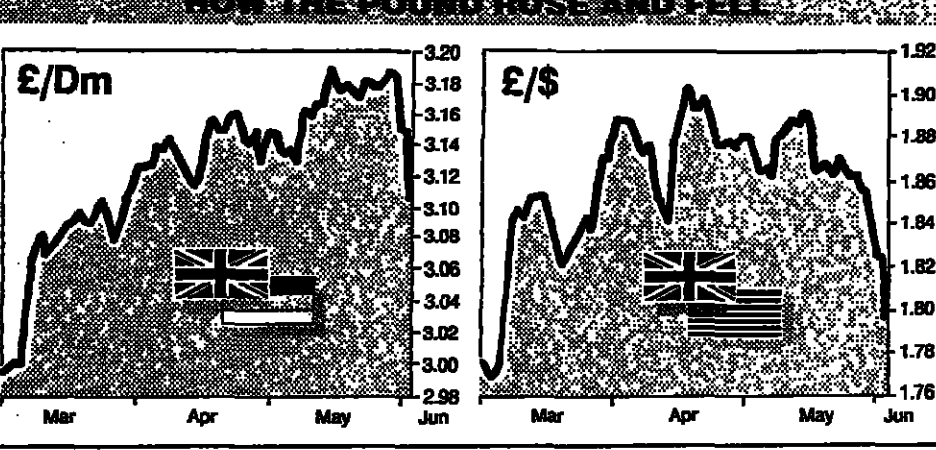
The Bank refused to confirm or deny market suggestions that it had intervened to support sterling after the base-rate cut. Dealers said that if there was intervention, it was modest.

"We must be moving towards another rise in base rates," said Mr Bill Martin, economist at Phillips & Drew, the broker. "If the Chancellor doesn't act, he will convey the impression that he has gone soft on inflation."

"They have even pulled minimum lending rate out before, so there is no reason why there shouldn't be another rise in rates," said Mr Andrew Smith, economist at CL-Alexanders Laing & Cruickshank.

The announcement by the Treasury of an \$814 million rise in Britain's official reserves last month - bigger than analysts had expected - had little impact on sterling.

M. Pierre Berezogov, the new French finance minister, said yesterday that Britain should either join the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System, or pull sterling out of the European Currency Unit (ECU) and the other elements of currency co-operation.



Beazer shares rise 4p on Koppers purchase

By Colin Campbell

CH Beazer's shares yesterday celebrated the end of the three-month acrimonious battle for control of Koppers, the American aggregates group, and rose 4p to 175p in active trading.

In New York on Wednesday night, Beazer finally secured boardroom backing from Koppers by raising its tender offer by \$1 to \$61 a share. This puts an overall price of \$1.8 billion (£1 billion) on the deal which includes up to \$10 million in "golden parachutes" for up to 25 people.

Beazer had originally offered \$45 a share for Koppers, then \$56 and \$60.

Under the terms of the

agreement, Beazer - whose vehicle for the bid is BNS, its American offshoot - will make certain payments to employees in respect of service contracts and payments due under Koppers' own deferred compensation plan.

Koppers, which has been locked in various legal battles with Beazer since the bid battle started, said it would do its best to stop the various legal actions under way.

The revised tender offer remains open for 10 business days, and the agreed merger now obviates the requirement for a guarantee by Beazer of Shearson Lehman Hutton's bridge loan of \$340 million.

Beazer also says that if the

merger is not completed because of a higher bid from a third party or in certain other circumstances, BNS will be entitled to receive a \$30 million fee plus reimbursement of up to \$30 million of expenses.

Now the battle is over, Beazer says that with the acquisition of Koppers it would become a significant international force in the housing, property, building materials and construction markets.

"Beazer should henceforth have the capability to generate substantial growth in profits and earnings a share from its mix of businesses and its wide geographical spread."

BAT 'is prepared to raise offer for Farmers Group'

By Our City Staff

BAT Industries may be prepared to increase its offer for Farmers Group, the Los Angeles insurance company, by a substantial amount from the present \$4.5 billion (£2.5 billion).

But this is only if it is warranted by information on the company which is not public and which Farmers could provide in a negotiated transaction, Mr Patrick Sheehy, the BAT chairman said yesterday.

Mr Sheehy, speaking at the BAT annual meeting, said the process of obtaining approval for the bid from nine state insurance regulators could be completed in the third quarter of this year. A decision is expected today from Arizona.

The important decision from California, where Farmers earns 40 per cent of its premium income, is expected within the next three weeks.

Mr Sheehy said hearings were underway in Idaho, are scheduled for next week in Illinois, and he hoped for early hearings in the remaining states of Kansas, Ohio, Washington and Texas.

Mr Sheehy gave a warning against reading too much into this year's first quarter results, which were well ahead of the results of first quarter of 1987, but said he was confident of real improvement in earnings per share and dividends.

Meanwhile Farmers has gained an unexpected ally in its battle with BAT. Los Angeles city council has voted

unanimously to approve a resolution condemning the bid. The resolution cited investments in South Africa by BAT in calling on the state insurance commissioner to disallow the acquisition.

A BAT spokesman said the city council was acting on "one-sided information" from Farmers and had never contacted it for a comment.

Farmers has said that the final vote count on a non-binding resolution asking the board to reconsider negotiating a friendly merger with BAT will be released on June 10 - eight days later than expected.

"It turned out to be a more complicated vote counting process than we expected," said a Farmers' spokesman.

Rowntree pledge to staff

By Our City Staff

Mr Kenneth Dixon, the chairman of beleaguered Rowntree, yesterday made it clear that his employees and their futures were uppermost in his mind in the defence against Nestlé and Jacobs Suchard, the Swiss predators.

His pledge to the workforce came as top Rowntree management toured the City to present their case for keeping the company British.

It followed an appeal from the General Municipal and Boilermakers union, calling on management to save jobs by opening talks on a friendly takeover.

In Brussels, Mr Peter Sutherland, the EEC Competition Commissioner, said he saw no reason to intervene on competition grounds.

Storehouse slips to £113m

By Our City Staff

Storehouse hopes to be back on a growth path in the 1989-90 financial year, Mr Michael Julien, its new chief executive, indicated after revealing lower profits for 1987-88.

Profits for the year to April 2 slipped from £123.1 million to £113.1 million, before tax and before taking into account property profits of £8 million (£6.1 million).

All the damage was done in the Mothercare subsidiary, where profits tumbled 37 per cent to £22.1 million. It was hit by the introduction of a new warehouse distribution system which failed when faced with heavy demand. This left the shops short of stock, and even when the group reverted to the old distribution operations, it had

to spend heavily to rebuild market share.

Exceptional costs in the Mothercare operation amounted to £7.6 million, and costs will continue to be heavy in the current first half while a duplicate system remains in operation.

The final dividend is 6.3p making a total of 8.8p for year.

Tempus, page 26

Powell Duffryn jumps to £33m

Pretax profits at Powell Duffryn, the fuel distribution and engineering group, jumped by 22 per cent to £33 million last year on turnover up just 2 per cent to £370 million.

Fuel distribution profits were badly hit by the excep-

tionally mild winter weather, but this was more than offset by a £2 million profit on the sale of a fuel depot in London and better engineering profits.

The company is planning significant cost reductions by coming off the British shipping register and moving its shipping operations to the Isle of Man. Mr Bill Andrews, the group chief executive, said that its return on capital in shipping was an inadequate 10 per cent, but that this could be lifted 3 percentage points by moving to the Isle of Man. Shipping made £5.3 million last year.

A much lower tax charge allowed earnings per share to rise by 32 per cent to 34.6p net, and the dividend is up 12 per cent to 18.5p net.

Tempus, page 26

Siebe profit soars by 91% to £118m

Siebe, the fast-growing process control, compressed air and safety equipment group, boosted pretax profits by 91 per cent to £118.4 million in the year to April 2 on a 57 per cent rise in turnover to £1.06 billion. Acquisitions in the US in 1986 and 1987 contributed £59 million and the weak dollar helped to double exports from the US in six months.

Next month, Siebe is hoping to resuscitate a plan to launch American depository receipts which was put off because of the October stock market crash. Mr Barrie Stephens, the chief executive, said that great progress had been made in integrating new businesses.

Tempus, page 26

'Several months' before investors receive any money Barlow Clowes inquiry deepens

By Lawrence Lever

A number of new facts uncovered by The Times have an important bearing on the position of thousands of investors who have placed more than £100 million with Barlow Clowes, the gilts fund managers.

Barlow's British gilts operation, Barlow Clowes Gilts Managers, has been put into provisional liquidation and its funds frozen at the request of the Securities and Investments Board, the new City watchdog.

It emerged yesterday that the SIB is to seek the compulsory winding up of the company at a public court hearing in early July. However, sources close to the investigation said that it will be several months before the special managers appointed by the court will be able to return any money to investors.

Meanwhile, thousands of anxious investors have been telephoning Cork Gully, the chartered accountants acting as special managers, for information. In two days this week 4,200 telephone calls were received.

Barlow Clowes and a sister company based in Gibraltar with which at least 2,000 British investors, mainly retired people, placed funds.

There have been suggestions that clients' money in the London and Gibraltar operations have been intermingled, although Mr Peter Clowes, the founder of Barlow Clowes, strongly denies this.

In an interview with The Times Mr John Perez, the managing director of Barlow Clowes International, the Gibraltar operation, said: "We are a marketing, sales and administration operation."

"The investment of the funds is done through Barlow Clowes & Partners in England. The clients' money is first placed on deposit in Gibraltar. Investment decisions are taken by Barlow Clowes & Partners and the money is then sent to them in the UK. They are the investment managers, we are sales and admin."

However, Mr David Gray, a Surrey financial intermediary who put 2,000 of his clients into the Gibraltar operation,

had a completely different understanding.

"I thought that the investment management was carried out in Gibraltar. I have been to their offices, they have computers whizzing away. I believed they were dealing in gilts there."

Meanwhile Mr Brian Traynor, Gibraltar's Financial and Development Secretary, said that a group of investors was contemplating taking legal action in Gibraltar. Two local firms of solicitors have been instructed to recover investments from the Gibraltar operation.

A lawyer for the investors said: "We have asked for a statement of the fund's assets and liabilities. We can't rely on a verbal understanding, based on no documentary evidence."

This was a reference to Mr Perez's promise to return all monies requested in three stages over a six month period.

The lawyer added: "Our clients receive no balance sheet or profit and loss account. They just get statements of guaranteed income and a confirmation of amounts invested. They are worried by this London business."



Something to smile about: Lord King, chairman (left) and Tony Gartland, chief executive, after reporting soaring profits for their company yesterday

FKI Babcock up 330%

By Alison Eadie

FKI Babcock, formed last summer from the merger of FKI Electricals and Babcock International, made pretax profits in the year to the end of March of £48.5 million, a rise of 330 per cent. Earnings per share rose 66 per cent to 12.24p, despite a higher tax charge.

The original FKI businesses generated profits of £16.5 million. Stone International, included for nine months, contributed £4.5 million and Babcock made £27.5 million over seven months.

Mr Tony Gartland, chief executive, said the group was now in a strong position to

fund acquisitions without recourse to shareholders. Future acquisitions would be in manufacturing rather than contracting.

The rationalization of Babcock's and Stone's businesses

Tempus, page 26

has been completed. The rationalization, which cost £50 million, generated annual net savings of £50 million. FKI has also provided £35 million against some long-term Babcock boiler contracts.

The savings have come partly from combining three head offices into one at Halifax, West Yorkshire. Head

office staff numbers had fallen to 25 from a total 120 before, but the accounts were being produced faster and better.

The enlarged group is operating from six divisions all of which are performing ahead of budget.

Lord King of Wartnaby, the chairman, said talks with Westinghouse Electric, the US heavy engineering and electronics group, were going well as were talks with a number of French companies. Westinghouse is interested in FKI's nuclear power station boiler business.

The total dividend was raised by 68 per cent to 2.35p.

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Industrial investment expected to rise 12%

Industrial investment will rise 12 per cent in volume this year, with a smaller rise in 1989, according to the Department of Trade and Industry investment intentions survey.

Direct investment by manufacturing industry is expected to rise 15 per cent, while spending on leased assets is set to increase 29 per cent. All industries are expected to invest more this year than in 1987. Total industrial investment is expected to reach a record of nearly £25 billion, with £6.7 billion accounted for by manufacturing and the rest by the construction, distribution and service industries.

Bond to keep HK assets Meyer buys for £1.6m

Bond Corporation Holdings will not give up its investments in Hong Kong, despite recent asset sales, Mr Alan Bond, the chairman, said. He told the annual meeting of the subsidiary Bond International, which sold some properties last month, that the sale had not been forced by cash needs but was "a calculated decision based upon our prognosis of the future value and yields."

Meyer International is paying £1.6 million for Simmons & Son, the Staffordshire builders merchant, as part of the plan to extend its Jewson branch network nationally. Simmons made profits of more than £240,000 on a turnover of £3 million. The deal includes Simmons's three-acre site in Stafford, which includes warehouse buildings. Meyer plans to invest £150,000 on a sawmill.

Elga in £641,000 loss

Elga Group, the Buckinghamshire water purifying specialist, which came to the market with a £9.6 million price tag a year ago, then lost two key directors last December as profits began evaporating, has turned in a £641,000 loss in its first year as a public company. The loss, relating to the year to end-March, compares with a profit of £1.04 million in the previous year. Even so, the board is paying a final dividend of 0.3p, making 1p for the year. Elga shares were quoted at 39p, down 5p on the day.

A slump in sales in the laboratory products and industrial systems divisions in both the Far East — where Elga was a victim of the strong pound — and Britain, where the company failed to react swiftly enough to a sudden weakness in demand, is behind the group's poor results.

Shell denies Texaco talks

Shell has denied it was approached by Texaco Inc to act as a friendly bidder to counter Mr Carl Icahn's unfriendly \$60 a share bid. Mr Eric Sussner, a Shell spokesman, said: "There are no talks between our firm and Texaco. We would be more interested in parts of companies than complete entities." On the New York Stock Exchange Shell was said to have offered \$64 a share.

Precinct deal for Merlin

Merlin International Properties has paid \$4.25 million for Castle Place, the 80,000 square foot shopping precinct in Trowbridge, Wiltshire. At the same time, the group is selling two car park companies in Sydney, Australia, to Conax, its 50 per cent owned associate, for Aus\$28.44 million (£12.62 million). Half the proceeds will be treated as income in the group's accounts for the year end-June.

Century Oils setback

Century Oils, the specialist oils group, is increasing its dividend from 5.75p to 6p, with a 4.25p final (4.15p last time). This is despite a setback in pretax profits last year, from £5.96 million to £5.22 million. The figures, adjusted to reflect a switch to average rather than year-end exchange rates, show earnings down from 17.02p a share to 11.62p.

Century's margins have been hit by the fluctuations in the prices of oil, raw materials and finished goods, and the strength of sterling. Volumes rose by 10 per cent but sales values only by 4.6 per cent. Mr Charles Mitchell, the Century chairman, said the company was hopeful that trading would regain the lost ground this year, "and, indeed, make a solid advance".

Edbro hoists final payout

Edbro, the hydraulic lifting gear manufacturer, is hoisting its final dividend to 6.5p a share, making 9p for the year to end-March against 8p previously. Pretax profits have risen from £2.3 million to £2.9 million, on a turnover up from £23 million to £26.4 million. Earnings per share are 24p compared with 19p. The board expects sales and profits to improve this year and orders are healthier than for a long time.

Anglia Secure at £1.75m

Profits have soared at Anglia Secure Homes, Britain's second biggest retirement homes group. The six months to end-March produced pretax earnings of £1.75 million, against £463,000, and earnings of 7.56p a share, against 1.9p last time. The interim dividend has been lifted from 0.7p to 1.25p a share. Mr Peter Edmondson, the chairman, said Anglia completed 223 sales and contracted a further 209.

Streamlined FKI powering ahead

The management of FKI Babcock has put the Babcock international business acquired in last year's £415 million merger on a crash slimming course.

It has closed 25 sites, made 4,080 people redundant, taken a net annualized £50 million cost out of the group and brought gearing down to negligible levels.

Disposals of the Italian FATA group for £65.5 million, Ames Crosa for £8 million and six other small businesses have left net borrowings at only £8 million and a balance sheet in fine shape for future acquisitions for cash.

FKI considered selling off Babcock's energy business at Renfrew, but the plant is generating decent profits working at only 40 per cent capacity and has a 12-month order book. Prospective buyers were few in number and not generous, so Renfrew stays.

FKI's goal of generating earnings-per-share growth of 25 per cent a year should be met comfortably this year.

Order books across the group are nearly £1 billion and the City expects pretax profits to more than double from the latest £48.5 million to about £106 million, nearly half coming from the cost savings. The prospective price/earnings ratio is a mere 7.4.

The 4p drop in the share price to 123p was a snifty

reaction to better-than-expected figures.

Market scepticism about the sense of the merger should have been dispelled by now, but the share price remains a long way from the 182p rights issue price which funded the deal and an uncomfortable number of shares are still with the underwriters.

A better rating is deserved, but may take time to achieve. Those with patience will be well rewarded.

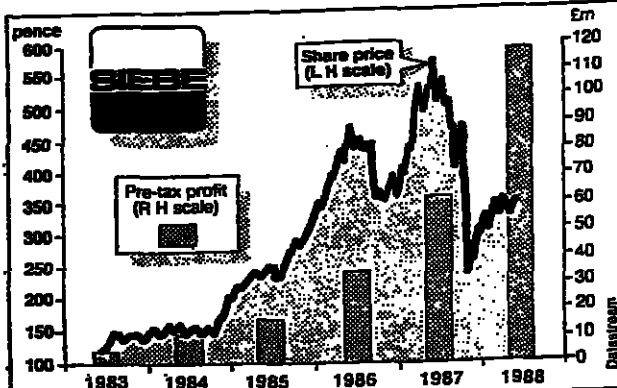
Siebe

Siebe was in the middle of its second rights issue in 12 months when Black Monday struck.

As the chart (not adjusted for rights) shows, Siebe shares surged after the 1986 issue and showed signs of doing the same again until the underwriters were deluged. At 355p, up 6p, they now sell at a humble 8.7 times Siebe's 42p per share earnings for the year to April 2.

The group has done nothing to justify such disdain. Profits are well up to expectations at £118 million pretax, against £62 million last time, given that the falling dollar cost £10 million in translation and that £6 million was included for 22 weeks from Barber-Colman, the US controls company bought with the rights money.

For all the post-crash recriminations about too many rights issues, Siebe



raised earnings per share by 32 per cent on an adjusted basis last year, having managed a 20 per cent rise in 1986-87. Even so, it has promised not to come back to shareholders for at least a year.

Mr Barrie Stephens, Siebe's chief executive, repeatedly reminded analysts yesterday that the acquisitions had not diluted earnings. Gearing has tumbled and the dividend record has been good, 15 per cent up this time to 8.78p.

Siebe has built a highly profitable, world-class controls business. Apart from Barber, the controls division — chiefly the 1986 acquisitions Robertshaw and Ramco — produced £59 million.

The earlier compressors, garage equipment and diving and safety equipment businesses also turned in an average 27 per cent profit rise. Siebe is investing continu-

ously to cut costs, not least by switching to cheaper manufacturing locations.

It invests about £40 million in R&D and is energetic in looking for new markets. Unless a sharp downturn knocks the stuffing out of the capital goods market, the shares are plainly cheap.

Powell Duffryn

Powell Duffryn surprised analysts with last year's performance, but then they had no knowledge of the £2 million profit on the sale of a depot at Millwall, London. However, even after stripping out this once-and-for-all gain from the £33 million pretax profit reported, the results were at the top end of expectations.

Analysts had downgraded their profits forecasts in the light of the very mild winter of 1987-88, given the impact of

the warm weather on Powell Duffryn's fuel business. Based on the average temperature for the past 20 years, last winter was 11 per cent warmer, while the previous one was 7 per cent colder, a significant swing for the group which had half its £646 million turnover in fuel distribution. Trading profits from this source slipped from £14.8 million to £11 million, excluding the property gain.

This was more than compensated for by a sparkling performance from engineering, where past investments in new plant and acquisitions beginning to pay off. Engineering trading profits rose from £6.8 million to £11.4 million. Shipping also did well — trading profits rose from £4.1 million to £5.3 million. A surge in rates occurred in the final quarter of the year, and they have since firmed further, offering the prospect of better returns this year.

The group should make £35 million this year, which would put the shares at 381p on a market average rating, but the 6.9 per cent prospective yield gives strong support to the price. Unexciting, but safe.

Emess

Emess seems to have stolen the light from under Thorn EM's nose in its bid for the French group Holophane, not only by offering a higher price but also by securing irrevocable undertakings giving it

control of 57 per cent of the capital.

But while nothing is certain until the French deal is finally wrapped up — and Thorn EM1, now considering all its options, could possibly come back with another bid — Emess is meanwhile finalizing plans for its new French cousin and making suitable funding arrangements.

These include a £39.1 million convertible preference rights issue and a £85 million Swiss bank loan facility, a package to be used to pay the overall £74.2 million.

In the two-part bid, Emess will pay £69.4 million for Holophane and then £4.8 million to take out the 13 per cent minority in Holophane's quoted subsidiary Europhane.

Assuming Holophane does fall under its umbrella, Emess could be looking at quite a run in profits. The group has just reported 1987 pretax profits of £7.7 million, compared with £4.3 million in 1986, and on its own was earmarked to turn in £14.6 million for 1988. That estimate now rises to at least £16 million for 1988, with a neutral earnings per share impact, and to £25 million, with earnings on the move again, for the 1989 financial year.

Emess, already well liked by the institutions and a defensive performer in the October crash, is now on a prospective 12.3 times earnings. One for the long run.

Bankers' support 'saved Wall St from new crash'

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Wall Street teetered on the brink of another devastating market crash during the week after Monday, March 28, when Macy's and the Campeau Corporation of Canada were locked in a fierce bidding war for Federated Department Stores, according to a new report.

Congressional reformers said the findings of Mr Martin Mayer, an authority on financial markets, bolstered their argument that Wall Street requires strong medicine to cure the problems the October crash exposed in dated trading structures and the stock exchange's specialist system.

Mr Mayer said that the crash that almost occurred over the Federated bidding war, which involved the sale of Brooks Brothers to Marks and Spencer, was just another example of a problem caused by a breakdown of the federal regulatory structure governing credit.

His conclusion, in a report for the *New York Times*, was that no one is policing the extension of credit to markets at a time when banks are making large loans to bogus market-makers who are able to qualify for exemptions from the borrowing rules.

The report, which attributed much of the nervousness in markets to the lack of a sound financial underpinning, touched a raw nerve in Washington, where government officials remain deeply concerned over the skittishness on Wall Street.

This concern was cited by high-level Federal Reserve Board officials as the primary reason for wanting to avoid raising the US discount rate to counter inflation fears. In an interview in *The Wall Street Journal*, a top Fed official said: "The financial markets are still a bit fragile. If you hit them over the head, say we are going to step on the brakes, you could easily see things get off track."

Mr Mayer's report said the system had almost derailed during the week of March 28, but had held together because

the banks stayed put, rather than calling in loans that were not adequately secured. The reverse was the case during the tense period from October 14 to October 19, when a credit crisis occurred after the banks called in the loans of "big players" who were trading heavily in takeover shares with borrowed funds, he said.

According to his analysis, when the competing bids for Federated doubled the price of its shares in a matter of weeks, almost all the longstanding shareholders sold out because of the disparity between the market price and the company's value.

As a result, \$6 billion (£3.29 billion) of Federated shares was in the hands of traders — risk arbitrageurs, hedge funds and brokers speculating for their own accounts. Most of

the financing, between \$4 billion and \$5 billion, had been borrowed from banks.

Had the financing sources dried up at this point, as many feared they would, Federated shares would have plummeted by 30 points or more, the banks would have pulled out and traders would have been forced to sell everything else they owned, because there would have been no buyers for their Federated shares, according to Mr Mayer.

He said the same thing would almost certainly occur again unless the US Securities & Exchange Commission tightened the rules governing market-makers.

At present, because of a hole in the regulatory system, large numbers of professional traders are able to circumvent the Federal Reserve rule which prohibits buyers of shares from borrowing more than 50 per cent of the price.

Mr Mayer said that this was one of the most startling, but little-noticed, conclusions of the Brady Report on markets, which said that professionals now borrow 75 per cent to 80 per cent of the price of what they buy.

Stephen Leather on Hong Kong's post-crash inquiry

Davison recommends 160 changes in HK markets



Safeguards: Ian Hay Davison

Hong Kong as an important world financial centre.

It wants to see the Securities Commission, the Commodities Trading Commission, and the Office of the Commissioner for Securities and Commodities Trading, replaced with a single, independent statutory body headed and staffed

An inside group treated the stock exchange as a private club rather than a public utility to benefit members, investors and issuers

by full-time experts and paid for by the market itself.

"It should be charged with ensuring the integrity of markets and the protection of investors," says the report.

"In particular it should ensure that the exchanges properly regulate their markets and should have extensive reserve powers to intervene if they fall down on the job."

One of the main changes suggested by the report is that the powerful management committee, presently dominated by local Chinese brokers, should be opened to outside experts and overseas brokers.

The committee should be renamed a council, reflecting the fact that management and execution of policy is to be left entirely to the chief executive.

presently Mr Robert Fell, and his staff.

There should be 22 members of the council, of which 16 will be individual and corporate brokers, five will be independent members, at least one of whom should be a director of a listed company and one a fund manager, and the chief executive.

Despite its sharp criticism of existing systems, the committee said it had rejected the idea of fundamentally changing them. Instead, the report says it favours "building on existing systems, as the success of Hong Kong's financial services market depends largely on the healthy working of the free enterprise system which has demonstrated a dynamic capacity for promoting innovation and growth."

Mr Hay Davison said: "Laissez-faire has served Hong Kong too well for it to be abandoned altogether just because it has been ineptly

voluminous, it is physically impossible to settle within 24 hours, particularly where the seller is an overseas institution as instructions have to be given in another time zone."

The committee wants to reduce the share registration period from its current 21 days to 14 days initially and then to seven days, though it gives a high priority to the early development of a central clearing system, presently being formulated by Mr Fell.

The committee suggests that selling short be allowed for the first time in Hong Kong, but not until the stock exchange and the regulatory authorities have been restructured.

Hong Kong's financial reputation was severely damaged by the events at its fledgling futures exchange after stock prices fell around the world.

The futures exchange had to be bailed out with a HK\$4 billion (£276 million) fund after many brokers and clients found they were unable to pay their bills in the wake of last year's stock market crash.

After the rescue, masterminded by Hambros, the British merchant bank, with contributions from the Hong Kong government, big local banks and broking firms, the government tightened controls on the exchange.

The report recommends that trading continues on the futures exchange and in Hang Seng index futures contracts, but with new safeguards.

The committee wants the clearing and guarantee system to be restructured to strengthen the risk management arrangements. In particular it wants the clearing house to become part of the futures exchange and suggests that a members' fund is set up to support the risks of clearing new contracts.

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Swire Pacific Limited

Final dividends for the year ended 31st December 1987 Scrip Dividends

At the annual general meeting held on 26th May 1988 shareholders approved the recommended final dividends for the year ended 31st December 1987.

By the closing date of 23rd May 1988 for the lodgement of election forms in Hong Kong and in London, elections for cash dividends had been received from the holders of 759,201,363 'A' shares and 1,546,044,382 'B' shares on the record date of 29th April 1988. Accordingly, the following new shares have been allotted to shareholders in respect of the final dividends for 1987 to be satisfied by the issue of scrip:

	Number of new shares issued	Proportion of existing shares in issue
'A' shares	5,163,620	0.5362%
'B' shares	43,690,057	1.4402%

Certificates for the new 'A' and 'B' shares, together with dividend warrants for the cash dividends for which elections were received, were despatched to shareholders on 1st June 1988 and The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited has granted listings for and permission to deal in these shares from that date.

By Order of the Board
JOHN SWIRE & SONS (H.K.) LIMITED
Secretaries

Hong Kong
3rd June 1988

Swire Pacific Limited
The Swire Group
Swire House, Hong Kong

Barclays Bank Base Rate.

Barclays Bank PLC and Barclays Bank Trust Company Limited announce that with effect from 3rd June 1988 their Base Rate is increased from 7½% to 8%

BARCLAYS

Barclays Bank PLC and Barclays Bank Trust Company Limited are members of IMAO
Reg. Office: 54 Lombard St, EC3P 3AF, Reg. No. 1026167 and 920800.

Standard Chartered

Base Rate

On and after 3rd June 1988 Standard Chartered Bank's Base Rate for lending is being increased from 7.50% to 8.00%

Standard Chartered Bank

Head Office 38 Bishopsgate, London EC2N 4DE
Tel. 01-280 7500 Telex 885951



The Royal Bank of Scotland plc

Base Rate

The Royal Bank of Scotland announces that with effect from close of business on 3 June 1988 its Base Rate for advances will be increased from 7½% to 8% per annum.

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc, Registered Office: 200, Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2TL. Registered in Scotland No. 90812.

LIG to sell loss-making Royal Worcester Spode

By Rosemary Unsworth, Retail Affairs Correspondent

London International Group, the Duxor manufacturer, is to sell Royal Worcester Spode, its china subsidiary purchased from Crystalate, the electronics group, just four years ago.

LIG lost £1.2 million through Spode in trading profits during the 12 months ended March 31. The full-year results will be announced on June 16.

The company said: "This operating loss includes group management charges and rationalization costs of £1 million."

"Although the retention and development of RWS is no longer in line with the company's core strategy, the group will proceed with a sale if it receives an offer which reflects

the underlying value of the strong traditional brand name of Spode and Royal Worcester whilst protecting the interests of its employees."

Mr Alan Woltz, the chairman, said the real problem for the company was the American bombing of Libya two years ago which discouraged American tourists from visiting Europe where they bought fine china.

"We did not anticipate a weak UK performance. Perhaps surprisingly, sales in the US have stood up quite well," he added.

Profits have been further affected by changes in working practices in the Stoke-on-Trent factories, including alterations in distribution and the upgrading of customer

services, rebalancing of stock levels and by redundancy costs, Mr Woltz said.

RWS has been regarded for some time by the City as an unsuccessful component in LIG's business. Mr Woltz said yesterday that the group's failure to purchase Wedgwood two years ago had thwarted the division's potential in fine china. Waterford Glass, which finally won the battle for Wedgwood, is not believed to be a potential bidder for RWS because of the threat of a block by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Mr Woltz also said that Mr Tony O'Reilly, chairman of Heinz which was tipped as a potential purchaser, had not approached the group.

LIG said interest in the group had been expressed by a number of parties and so it had decided to invite serious expressions of interest through Warburg, its financial adviser. Japanese, West German and American pottery manufacturers may well turn out to be potential bidders, according to analysts at County NatWest WoodMac.

Mr Woltz said the projected increase in sales of condoms, because of AIDS fears, the growing surgical gloves business and the opportunities for expansion of the photo-processing business in Europe had played an important part in the decision to sell RWS.

Estimates for full-year profits are about £33 million.

Clearing network relaxes entry rule

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Many building societies and small banks will soon be eligible to join the bank clearing system, through which non-cash payments are processed, following a dramatic relaxation of the entry requirements.

The move is likely to lead to a big expansion of the system and enable many building societies to offer more efficient payment services to their customers.

Institutions wishing to join the system will now have to show that they process 5 million payment items a year for customers instead of the previous requirement of about 15 million transactions. This will enable many more smaller institutions to join.

The new rule applies to BACS Ltd, the high-volume electronic clearing network which processes more than 2 billion payment transactions a year. The change, approved by the Treasury, the Bank of England and the Building Societies Commission, came after pressure from building societies wishing to offer a wider range of services to customers.

The societies have shown considerably less interest in joining the paper-based cheque clearing system.

At present, most societies are forced to farm out the clearing of customers' direct debits, standing orders and other electronic payments to the 15 existing members of BACS.

Only the two largest societies, Halifax and Abbey National, have succeeded in joining the system under the old rule although Nationwide Anglia is expected to join this year. The other members are made up of British high street banks and Citicorp, the only foreign bank.

The change means that about a dozen building societies and banks are expected to seek membership of the BACS system in 1990 when the new rule comes into effect.

The Association for Payment Clearing Services, the umbrella organization covering the four different bank clearing systems, said that if all these institutions were eligible for membership, a waiting list of up to two years would have to be formed. BACS could not cope with so many new members all at once.

COMMENT David Brewerton Sterling bears shatter exchange rate illusions

The sterling bears were in full cry yesterday, demolishing a number of preconceptions about exchange rate policy in successive mouthfuls. Gone, after yesterday's battering for sterling — both before and after the base rate increase — is the belief that it is as easy to manage a falling currency as it is to restrain a rising one.

Gone too, if not forever, is the view that, having established low-inflation credibility, Britain could now take her place alongside West Germany as a low interest rate economy. The credit explosion and the balance of payments between them ensured that this was always a long shot. The nirvana of a strong pound and low interest rates has once more been postponed.

The fact is that if the Chancellor faced a dilemma when the pound was roaring up, it was as nothing besides the difficulties he faces in the opposite situation. The good thing about yesterday's base rate increase was that it was prompt, the bad thing was that by the time it occurred the markets had already discounted a half-point increase and only the surprise of a full point on base rates would have been enough to stop sterling in its tracks.

The pound now needs watching very carefully. The continuing slide in sterling after the base rate reduction is not necessarily a sign that the pound is heading south from now on — there have been delayed reactions in the markets before. But so many people have been

saying for so long that the pound was due for a tumble, not least the Chancellor himself, that it is anybody's guess when the markets will decide that the pound has had enough.

The gilt market, which had never been happy with the trade-off between a rising pound and falling base rates, could have been expected to have welcomed yesterday's move. But when the pound continued falling after the Bank's lunch-time signal, even gilts started to look sick. After all, on the Treasury's own model, DM3.10 and 8 per cent base rates represents a looser monetary policy than DM3 and 9 per cent, or even DM3.20 and 7.5 per cent, particularly when sterling has also fallen sharply against the dollar.

It is tempting to look at sterling's upward spike since early March as just one of those things that happen in the markets, and its current fall and the accompanying rise in base rates as a simple unwinding of what was always a temporary position.

But there is much more to it than that. Whether you agreed with it or not, the Lawson policy of holding sterling at DM3 or just below, which was abandoned at that fateful Downing Street meeting on March 4, had convinced the markets that the Government was serious about sterling stability. When sterling was on the way up, that loss of credibility was incidental. Now it is looking distinctly uncomfortable.

The task at Storehouse

Sir Terence Conran, the doyen of the retail trade, declared yesterday: "Customer confidence has recovered. Confidence in Storehouse shares may take a little longer to rebuild."

Profits for the year to April 2, 1988, came in right on the button at £113 million, a neat but nasty £10 million down on the previous year. The blame rests squarely on the shoulders of Mothercare, where profits took a dive as a distribution system let customers down and the mums decided to shop elsewhere. It will be autumn before a re-engineered distribution system can begin to deliver the goods.

But while the real damage was done by Mothercare, performances elsewhere were also patchy. At BHS, the old high street juggernaut, which accounts for half the entire group space, profits held up in the face of a substantial amount of refurbishing work. A space programme has been introduced which will maximize the use of BHS sites, bringing into retail use such dead areas as stockrooms and coldstores and allowing the resiting of other Storehouse facias within BHS acreage.

But the real breakthrough at BHS, where margins remain among the highest in the mass market retail business, is expected when the chain is re-merchandised later this year. Like Mothercare, BHS will be plugging on with its existing handicaps (random merchandise and downmarket customer profile) until the bright, new concept is proven.

Habitat held its own in a year which brought another major furniture group, Harris Queensway, on to the auction block.

The Storehouse pack is unlikely to do much better than recover to the 1986/87 levels of profits in the current year, but investors will no doubt be relieved to hear that the new chief executive, Michael Julien, feels that everything he has so far seen in Storehouse does support the original merger concept. If Mr Julien is allowed to hammer into place the hard management style which Storehouse needs to pull itself into a group, rather than a random collection of companies, he will get the institutional support he needs. But Storehouse has few second chances left.

Fitch buys US design consultant

By Michael Tate

Fitch Design Consultants is paying \$8 million (£4.45 million), rising to \$19 million if profit targets are met over the next four years, for Richardson-Smith, the US design consultancy. This will establish Fitch as a leader in the product design field with a powerful US presence.

The deal is financed by the issue of £4.39 million convertible preference shares, which have been conditionally placed at 100p each, but which will be offered to existing Fitch shareholders via an open offer.

Based at Columbus, Ohio, with an office at Boston, Massachusetts, Richardson-Smith has grown from a two-man team in 1959 to a 130-strong group, making profits of \$1.35 million last year on income of \$8.4 million.

Mr Ian Cochrane, the finance director of Fitch, said yesterday that the acquisition, the company's first overseas, would "broaden the group's international reach." He added that the group is planning to change its name to Fitch-RS.

Analysts were impressed with the deal, which has been achieved at an exit p/e of around 10.6. The two groups are perceived to be an excellent fit and, unusually, the RS team has been cemented in down to the second tier of management, through the earn-out arrangements.



Encouraging start to the year: Nazmu Virani

Virani group in black

Control Securities, the property group run by Mr Nazmu Virani in which Mountleigh and Heron International have substantial stakes, has announced profits of £8.3 million in the year to end-March, compared with a loss of £608,000 the previous year. The directors are declaring a special interim dividend of 0.375p.

Earnings per share were 5.1p, compared with a loss per share of 0.7p previously.

The company says that the first two months of the current financial year have been encouraging and include the profitable sale of 13 properties with proceeds of more than £21.5 million.

Stanhope stake for O&Y

By Lawrence Lever

Olympia & York Developments, the Canadian property and investment group, is to have three seats on the board of Stanhope Properties, the USM-quoted property group in which it is taking a 33 per cent stake.

A circular has been sent to Stanhope shareholders setting out the detailed proposals whereby O&Y will subscribe some £137 million for 33 per cent of Stanhope. One of the new appointees is Mr Paul Reichmann, one of the three brothers who run the O&Y empire.

The detailed arrangements contain proposals to avoid conflicts of interest between Stanhope and O&Y, which is orchestrating the £3 billion development of Canary Wharf in London's Docklands. Stanhope was recently awarded a £500 million development contract in the Royal Docks area of Docklands.

The circular says that the parties are confident that conflicts will be rare "because of, among other reasons, the complementary nature of their projects, which allows the two groups to offer tenants a variety of choices covering the full range of their needs."

Although O&Y can appoint five directors, and Mr Stuart Lipton, the chief executive of Stanhope, can select nine directors, proposed new voting arrangements will give each faction equal voting rights at board meetings.

Emess tops Thorn bid for Holophane

By Colin Campbell

Emess, the lighting and electrical accessories group which is headed by Mr Michael Meyer, yesterday topped an earlier bid from Thorn EMI for the French group Holophane — the second largest commercial lighting manufacturer in France — and said it had secured board backing.

Mr Meyer said he had the unanimous support of the Holophane board, which together with undertakings from other shareholders, gives Emess 57 per cent of acceptances.

Emess is offering FF1,500 per Holophane share valuing the group at FF742.5 million

(£69.4 million). The Thorn EMI offer was at FF1,222 a share, valuing Holophane at FF605 million (£56 million). Emess will also offer FF600 for the outstanding 13 per cent of Holophane's subsidiary Euraphane which would require an additional FF31 million (£4.8 million). Thorn EMI's offer for the minority of Euraphane was at FF310 a share.

Thorn EMI said that it was earlier led to believe that it had the "approval" of the Holophane board for its bid, and would now be considering "all its options" in the light of latest developments. The

company said that it would be making a formal statement shortly.

Mr Meyer, meanwhile, said Emess was raising £39.1 million net via a rights issue of convertible preference shares, and that it has entered into an agreement with a Swiss bank for a loan facility of £85 million as part of the financing arrangements for the offer.

The terms of the rights issue are 13 new convertible preference shares for every 10 ordinary shares, and 13 new convertible preference shares for every 45 existing convertible preference shares.

The preference shares carry

a dividend of 6.25p net a share, and are convertible into ordinary shares at 450p. The Emess share price was unchanged at 443p yesterday.

Holophane's turnover for the year ended December was FF721 million (FF612 million in 1986) on which it earned pretax profits of FF80 million (FF51 million). Its business is divided into two parts — lighting, which accounted for 70 per cent of the group's total sales, and industrial glass.

The industrial glass activities do not currently represent a core activity of the Emess group. *Times, page 26*

Walls have ears

A bugging device has been discovered in the office of the finance director of one of Britain's biggest multi-national companies. The company is publicly quoted but David Benn, managing director of Lorraine Electronics, which made the discovery last week, refuses to disclose its identity. His firm specializes in both selling bugging devices — 30 a day are sold — and in counter-surveillance equipment. Lorraine sweeps the offices of client companies — including a number in the City — examining facsimile machines, photocopiers, electric typewriters and even wall plugs to discover hostile eavesdroppers. The use of electronic devices is common in Britain, Benn says, and reveals that about 95 per cent of his company's counter-surveillance customers are big public companies. But what is even more surprising is that the same clients account for more than a quarter of the bugging devices sold by Lorraine. "Some of them," says Benn, "are almost frighteningly advanced in the technology they use." Recording devices range from briefcases which can pick up conversations at 40 to 50 feet to balloons and pocket ballpoint pens and calculators. Most bugs are, however, used by companies to spy on their own staff rather than on their competitors. "It is so easy to bug a telephone line that no fax, conversation or computer line is safe any longer," Benn says.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY Turbo-Powered results

Life is not so austere at Storehouse that there is no time for the occasional bit of fun. Chairman Sir Terence Conran apparently bet finance director Jim Power that he could not get through his numerical presentation of results at yesterday's press conference inside 20 minutes. Power consequently raced through his slide show — too quickly for some of the slower scribes — and duly collected the Conran tenner in front of the world's Press. How much would he receive for presenting higher profits, we wonder?

Slack Mac

In March, McDonald's opened its first restaurant behind the iron curtain, in Yugoslavia. Since then, however, some 40 employees, representing 30 per cent of the workforce, have resigned, despite high local unemployment. They complain that they are expected to work like Westerners — serving 6,000

meals a day — but are paid like Easterners, earning the equivalent of \$170 (£93) a month, against \$150 a week in the US. According to a recent survey the average Yugoslav works efficiently for only half of his eight-hour day, spending the rest of the time reading newspapers, conducting private business or chatting with colleagues.

Fangs a lot

The tables have turned full circle for Nick Winks, chief executive of printing group Colorgraphic, who has recruited Peter Jordan, chief executive of Norcross's print and packaging division, as a non-executive director. For Winks was once Jordan's protégé. A few years ago Jordan gave Winks a job at Norcross with the intention of grooming him for the managing directorship. Jordan, aged 53, is, for his part, something of a rarity. He is one of 15 people to have been bitten by an adder in the UK during the past 10 years — and one of only 12 to have survived.

Aschers to ashes

Back in London on a rare visit last week was Ernest Ascher who, last year, at the age of 77, sold his stake in United Packaging for some £7 million and went to live in Switzerland. He was, it seems, back here to rewrite his will. Under Swiss law, he told me, 30 per cent of your estate must go to your wife, and a further 40 per cent to your offspring. "My wife and children have more than enough," he laughed. Instead, Ascher wants some of his cash to go to charity. Among those to benefit will be the Salvation Army — "a different religion to mine, I know, but I'm impressed because the money seems to get to all the right places" — the "old musicians", an interest he has maintained ever since a chance meeting with the pianist Vladimir Ashkenazy, and the British police, "who never get enough for what they do." Where has Ascher invested his money? "I've never bought a share," he revealed. "There is an old Swiss saying — if you want to eat well once, buy shares; if you want to sleep well for ever, buy bonds." Tell that to Nestlé and Suchard.

● A client who tried to contact a partner at blue-blooded broking firm Cazenove on Wednesday found them decidedly thin on the ground. "Derby Day, I suppose," he said. "No, June 4," said the receptionist. For the uninitiated, June 4 is the annual speech day at Eton College. It is held on June 1. Of course.

Carol Leonard



PILLARS OF STRENGTH

	1986	1987	1988	% increase 1987-88
Turnover (£m)	370.6	675.2	1056.7	UP 57%
Pre-tax Profit (£m)	33.3	62.1	118.4	UP 91%
Earnings per share (p)	25.8	31.7	42.0	UP 32%
Total Dividends (£m)	5.1	10.5	16.9	UP 61%
Dividend per share (p)	6.74	7.63	8.78	UP 15%



Siebe plc, Saxon House, 2-4 Victoria Street, Windsor, Berkshire, SL1 1EN.


The contents of this statement, for which the directors of Siebe plc are solely responsible, have been approved for the purposes of Section 57 of the Financial Services Act 1986 by an authorised person.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

High	Low	Open	Close	Change	P/E
100	98	99	100	1	10
101	99	100	101	2	11
102	100	101	102	3	12
103	101	102	103	4	13
104	102	103	104	5	14
105	103	104	105	6	15
106	104	105	106	7	16
107	105	106	107	8	17
108	106	107	108	9	18
109	107	108	109	10	19
110	108	109	110	11	20
111	109	110	111	12	21
112	110	111	112	13	22
113	111	112	113	14	23
114	112	113	114	15	24
115	113	114	115	16	25
116	114	115	116	17	26
117	115	116	117	18	27
118	116	117	118	19	28
119	117	118	119	20	29
120	118	119	120	21	30
121	119	120	121	22	31
122	120	121	122	23	32
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124	122	123	124	25	34
125	123	124	125	26	35
126	124	125	126	27	36
127	125	126	127	28	37
128	126	127	128	29	38
129	127	128	129	30	39
130	128	129	130	31	40
131	129	130	131	32	41
132	130	131	132	33	42
133	131	132	133	34	43
134	132	133	134	35	44
135	133	134	135	36	45
136	134	135	136	37	46
137	135	136	137	38	47
138	136	137	138	39	48
139	137	138	139	40	49
140	138	139	140	41	50
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142	140	141	142	43	52
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144	142	143	144	45	54
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149	147	148	149	50	59
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339	337				

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MATERIALS SCIENTIST
CS16k

BIOTECHNOLOGY SC
CS12.5k

PHYSICIST/MATERIALS
CS12.5k

Discoveries that shape our future

Developing new materials for specific, or as yet unknown, purposes is the lifeblood of industry — a science that is increasingly critical to Britain's progress in the coming years

By Colin Humphreys

Materials science is probably the most important subject in the US today," said George Keyworth, President Reagan's former chief scientific adviser. At first sight this statement may seem rather extraordinary. Is materials science really more important than medicine or mechanical engineering? Is it more important than physics or chemistry, electrical engineering or biotechnology, accountancy, stockbroking or law?

In Japan, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) has highlighted three key areas for massive research and development: new materials, new electronic devices and biotechnology. And top of the list is new materials.

Why have the two leading industrial nations in the world, the United States and Japan, targeted new materials as their top priority for funding and development? The answer is simple. New and improved materials are the lifeblood for sustaining existing industries and for developing new industries.

A recent issue of *Scientific American*, entirely devoted to new materials, stated: "Advance materials are essential to the future growth of aerospace, electronic device, automobile and other industries. Progress in materials science sets ultimate limits on the rate at which key sectors of the economy can grow."

Unless new materials are developed in the UK, it is likely that much of our industry will die. The worldwide pace of development in materials science and engineering makes the next few years particularly critical.

What is the nature of the

revolution that has made the interdisciplinary subject of materials science and engineering so important? Again to quote *Scientific American*: "It is only recently that advances in the understanding of matter have made it possible to start with a need and then develop a material to meet it, atom by atom."

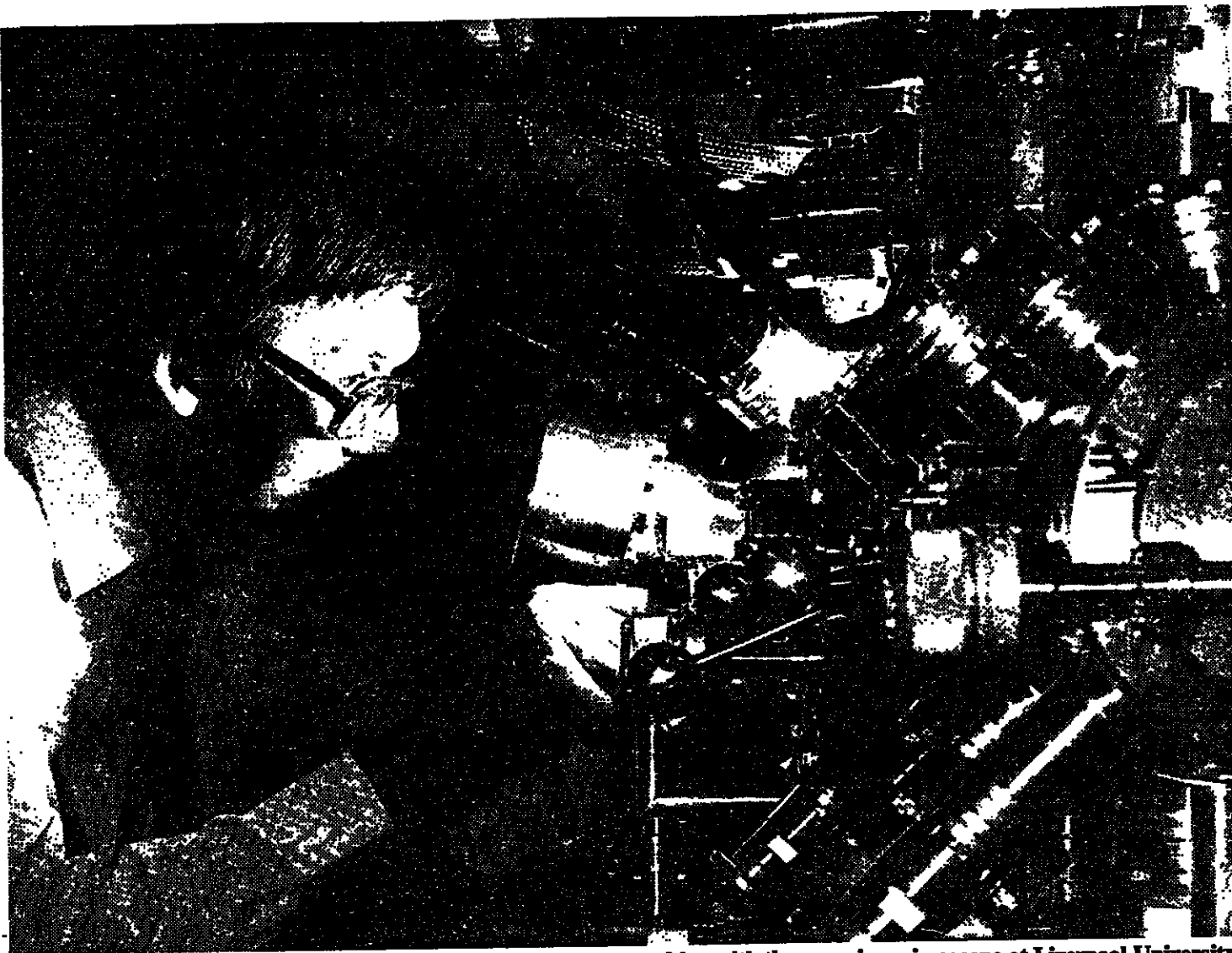
It is this ability to design, often at an atomic level, a material for a specific application which underlies the technological importance of materials science.

For example, materials science is enabling the lame to walk through the development of materials tailor-made for artificial hip joints. Recent developments greatly extend the lifetime of these hip joints to the benefit of the patient and the financial benefit of the health service.

Advanced semiconductor materials, some fabricated literally atom by atom, form the electronic heart of a fast and increasing range of products, from computers to cars, from robots to rockets. These materials are becoming so pervasive and central that a developed nation ignores the health of its semiconductor research, development and production facilities at considerable future risk to a wide range of industries.

The much-heralded ceramic semiconductors may revolutionize many aspects of industry, but physicists, chemists and materials scientists working together hold the key: it is only if some difficult and challenging materials problems are solved that these superconductors will fulfil their promise.

It is well known that physics and chemistry are very important subjects. The importance of materials science and engineering



Searching for vital new materials: Professor Colin Humphreys working with the scanning microscope at Liverpool University

is less well known. Materials science and engineering is an interdisciplinary subject which studies the physical and chemical properties of the complete range of materials (metals, alloys, superconductors, semiconductors, ceramics, plastics and polymers, and composites of the above), the relationship between these properties and the atomic structure of the material, the processing of the material into a desired form and the design of new materials.

Materials science and engineering is not a subject studied at school, nor is it well known among careers teachers, despite the outstanding job opportunities that exist.

According to the Institute of

Metals the total number of graduates produced in materials science and engineering, including related disciplines such as metallurgy, from all UK universities and polytechnics was 661 in 1980 and it has reduced steadily to only 486 in 1987. (By comparison, a large accountancy firm employs typically 500 new graduates each year.)

There is a substantial shortage of good materials science graduates. The ideal A level qualifications for a degree course are maths, physics and chemistry, though most departments will accept students with maths and physics, or maths and chemistry. Departments are looking for students with vision who wish to

develop an integrated understanding of the physical and chemical properties of solids, and who wish to study both science and engineering.

Materials science and engineering is a subject that uniquely combines the skills of physicists, chemists and engineers, enabling rapid transfer from scientific discoveries to engineering applications, and conversely finding scientific solutions to engineering problems.

The proportion of women applicants, and acceptances, in materials science and engineering is significantly higher than in any other engineering subject, or in science subjects such as physics and mathematics.

Job opportunities for both men and women are outstandingly good. In the last four years only one graduate from my department has failed to obtain a job, and most students receive multiple job offers. Other materials science and engineering departments in the UK report a similar situation.

This means that we can virtually guarantee a job to every materials science and engineering undergraduate. There are few university and polytechnic subjects with such a good record.

It is probably the interdisciplinary training in physics, chemistry and engineering that gives materials scientists and engineers a breadth of understanding and a flexibility of approach that makes

Materials science is probably the most important subject in the US today... for the development of new industries

Dr George A. Keyworth, below, former director of Science and Technology at the White House



them so much in demand. Such an employment record demonstrates that materials science and engineering departments are highly successful at training undergraduates. We are failing, however, to attract the quality and quantity of sixth formers to undergraduate courses to satisfy the needs of the industry.

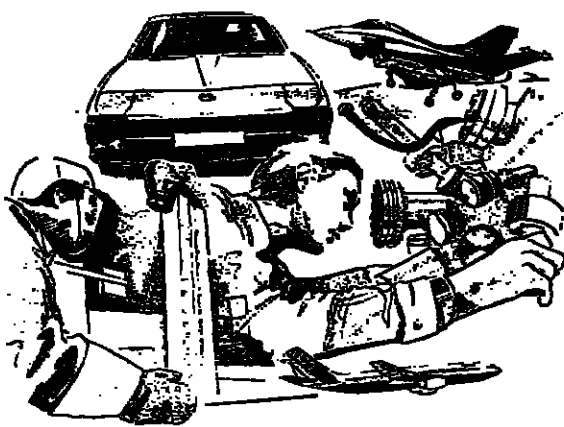
The last words of General John Sedgewick, killed in May 1864 at the Battle of Spotsylvania in the American Civil War, were: "Why, they couldn't even hit an elephant at this dist..." The scientific big guns of our industrial competitors have targeted materials science to be hit with money and manpower. We underestimate their firepower, and fail to respond, at the expense of our health, and possible death, of a wide range of important industries.

The shortage of UK graduates in this field should be a cause for national concern. The solution must be to make school pupils, teachers and parents much more aware of the exciting and challenging job opportunities that exist in materials science and engineering.

The author is head of the Department of Materials Science and Engineering at Liverpool University.

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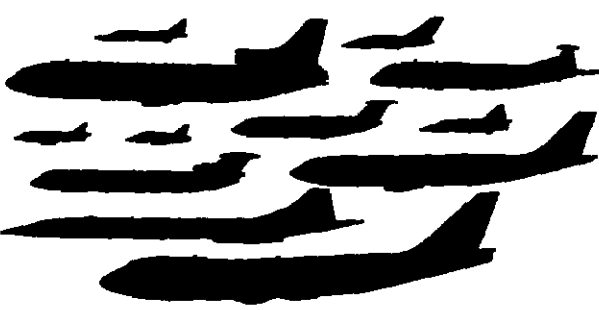
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MATERIALS SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING/2

FOCUS

High-flying high technology

New products for Hotol are reviewed by Pearce Wright Science Editor

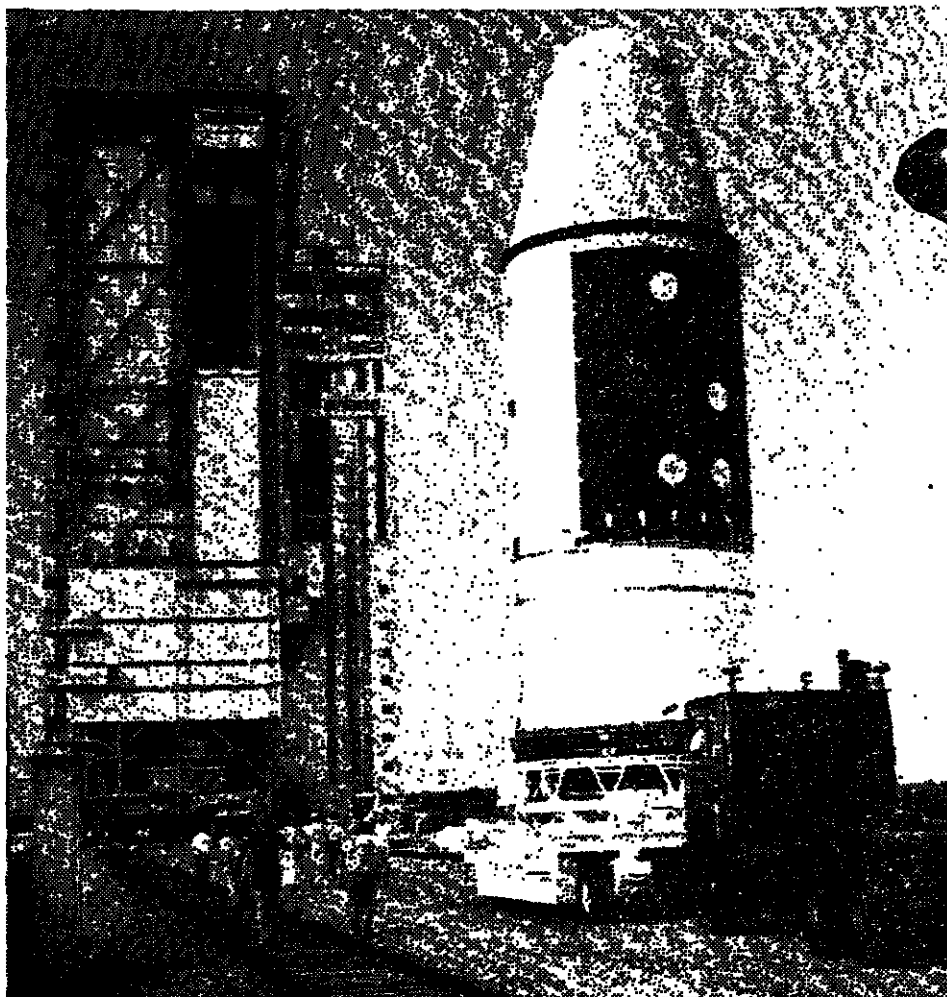
Materials science is one of the most vibrant areas of today's high technology. Fundamental advances are shaping the future of our largest and most important industries. Because of their potential impact on electronics and computer technology, unprecedented excitement surrounds the explosion of research into the newly discovered family of ceramic materials known as "warm" superconductors.

In applied research, aerospace design engineers are about to test materials enabling Hotol, the revolutionary space plane under development by British Aerospace and Rolls-Royce, to fly safely at hypersonic speeds.

Furthermore, Rolls-Royce researchers are well down the road in creating a non-metallic aero-engine for use well beyond the year 2000. It will transform the performance of aircraft, especially military aircraft, outstripping the properties of the super-steel and titanium alloys.

The development of Hotol and the concept of non-metallic aero-engines are projects at different stages of research and development. But Dr Bob Parkinson, British Aerospace's manager of future launch systems, says the materials technology chosen for such large projects eventually spreads through the entire engineering industry.

Work on Hotol has just moved from a proof-of-concept stage to an enabling technology programme. The results of paper studies and small-scale testing of materials and process technologies have



now to be demonstrated on an industrial scale.

The moment of truth has also come for other innovations planned for Hotol in aerodynamics, command and control systems, mechanical and electrical equipment and the revolutionary propulsion unit. They must all be brought to maturity simultaneously in the next four years.

Dr Parkinson says that, for Hotol, the period of trying to invent more exotic materials is past. The challenge is to show which of those on a shortlist can be handled exactly as intended, and whether they retain their promised

strength, stiffness, and thermal and electrical properties in full size structures.

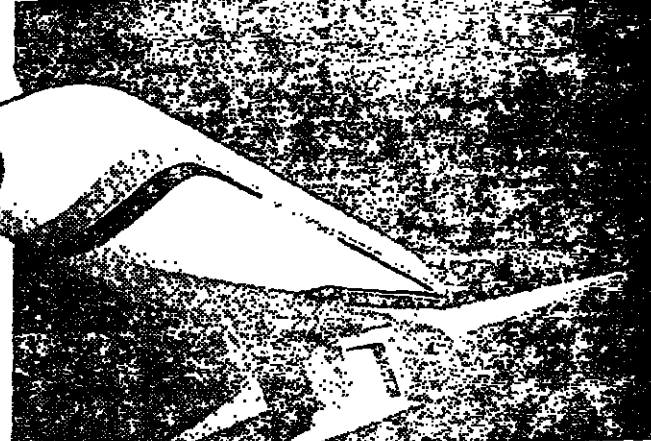
Hotol is intended to launch satellites at a fifth of the cost of current vehicles. It will put a payload of seven tonnes in an equatorial orbit 300 kilometres high. Much of the savings comes from re-using the spacecraft, which takes off and lands on a conventional airport-type runway.

However, Dr Parkinson's team estimates that every kilogram shaved from the structure of Hotol saves £500,000 on development costs and £400,000 on production costs. Hence, the planned

six launchers could save £13 billion in their lifetime because of a projected saving of 4.5 tonnes in the space plane's structures.

Theoretical studies may show how high-temperature thermoplastics, metal matrix composites or superplastically formed titanium would lighten the space plane's structures.

Hotol will be subjected to very high heating rates during its manoeuvres in the atmosphere, generating "hot spot" temperatures of 1,675°C on its skin and 925°C over large areas. Conversely, its huge fuel tanks must contain



Above: Britain's proposed Hotol, the reusable space shuttle. Left: The nose fairing and Spelda upper part of Ariane 4

propellants at temperatures down to -250°C.

Accordingly, British Aerospace designers have narrowed their choice of materials to three categories:

- Metal matrix composites, which are fibre-reinforced alloys, probably titanium, for structures subjected to temperatures up to 500°C.
- Protection of hot spots call for composite materials with high thermal resistance made from a ceramic matrix or carbon-carbon substance.
- For pressurized thin-wall tanks containing fuels at low temperatures, the engineers are testing carbon-reinforced polymers.

Although the tonnage of these materials needed for a fleet of Hotol vehicles is small compared with the normal aerospace industry production volumes, the technology will "spin off" very quickly.

By coincidence, a new Advanced Short Take-Off and Vertical Landing (ASTOVL) combat aeroplane is about to emerge. In addition, designers are planning a second generation supersonic transport.

Both these projects will be subjected to high skin temperatures, and thus benefit from the new materials technology evolving for Hotol.

Rolls-Royce's materials experts believe composite metal and ceramic-matrix materials will replace metals for a wide range of components in military aero-engines in less than 20 years.

But in an article in the Rolls-Royce magazine, Dr Bob Jeal, chief of materials and mechanical technology, looks even further ahead and foresees the complete non-metallic aero-engine. This envisages military aircraft, well into the next century, requiring a thrust 20 times greater than the weight of the plane.

When the latest in the family of European launch vehicles, Ariane 4, makes its debut next Wednesday, it will also be the first flight for a device called Spelda (Structure porteur externe lancement double Ariane). Built by British Aerospace, it enables Ariane 4 to launch two or more spacecraft. Spelda is made in aluminium alloy honeycomb with carbon fibre facings, contains and inner spacecraft and another on top.

The aero-engine of the future is expected to achieve half of its remarkable performance through advances in materials and half through improved design.

Planning for growth

Guide to materials degree courses for the much-needed young scientists

The study of materials science and engineering at universities or polytechnics offers the opportunity to prepare graduates for a wide range of industries. Many of the degree courses which are offered have evolved from metallurgy degree courses since metals are the most widely used engineering materials.

Courses which originated in this way are offered at the universities of Birmingham, Brunel, Cambridge, Leeds, Liverpool, London (Imperial College), Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Oxford, Salford, Sheffield, Strathclyde, Surrey and Swansea, together with the polytechnics at Coventry, Manchester, Sheffield and Wolverhampton.

Other courses started more recently and were established as materials science or engineering courses. Examples of these courses are found at the universities of Bath, London (Queen Mary College), and Loughborough, together with Sunderland and Thames polytechnics.

Over the years, there has been an increase in the number of degree courses which consider a range of materials at the expense of those considering only one material. The remaining courses in metallurgy, polymer technology or ceramic science and engineering are, however, not likely to change to cover the range of materials included in the more general materials courses.

Indeed, there are growing demands from producers of particular materials and those user industries which concentrate only on one type of material for these single material courses to be retained.

Whatever material or materials are considered with a degree course, students will be using physics, chemistry and

mathematics to describe, explain and predict the behaviour of materials.

The properties of materials that are of interest range from the strength and ductility to the resistance to environmental attack, the interaction with electro-magnetic radiation and the response to changes in temperature.

This conceptual framework leads to the usage of materials in components and devices and has in recent years led to an increased emphasis on the engineering applications of materials.

Engineering design is at the heart of the applications of materials and all engineering courses, whether they are concentrating on materials engineering or other engineering disciplines, need to have design as a central theme if they are to be accredited on behalf of the Engineering Council.

The input of materials to engineering design was recognized by the Collyer Committee which reported in 1985 that more emphasis should be given in industry and academic establishments to informing engineers about new and improved materials processes.

The Department of Trade and Industry has mounted an information programme, Promat, and established an information centre at the Design Council.

New degree courses have been developed, or are being developed, at the universities of Newcastle, Nottingham and Loughborough where materi-

als will be linked to mechanical engineering such that engineering design will be emphasized.

These three universities will in future be offering these interdisciplinary degree courses instead of degrees restricted to materials science and engineering.

Materials graduates go into a wide variety of industries, so it is natural to expect producers of metals, such as Alcan, British Steel, IMI Titanium, INCO Engineered Products Ltd and RTZ to employ metallurgists and materials scientists or engineers.

Similarly, it is not surprising that producers of other materials, such as the Cookson Group, Dow Chemicals, ICI, Pilkingtons and Rodland, require suitable graduates.

By extending the range of companies to the users of materials, one finds that Austin Rover, BICC, British Telecom, the Central Electricity Generating Board, Metal Box, Oilfield Inspection Services, Plessey and Rolls-Royce are among more than 400 companies who have employed recent graduates.

Despite the strong demand from industry, there are not enough high quality applicants to materials science and engineering courses. It is hoped that schools will hear this message and respond to the challenge of equipping Britain with an adequate supply of materials scientists and engineers to take us forward into the 21st century.

Martin Stammers
The Institute of Metals

● Further details available from: The Education Officer, The Institute of Metals, 1 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5DB (01-839 4071).

Boosting British research

Big advances in new materials are emerging from the laboratories in other countries at a much faster rate than in Britain, according to a comparison of research commissioned for the Science and Engineering Research Council, writes Pearce Wright.

Britain has also been falling behind in materials science, while discoveries by her competitors are laying the foundations for "new technologies which will control international economic development during the next century".

Now the research council has called for the creation of five new major research centres in the UK. Each will be the focus for a national programme of basic research.

The heads of universities and polytechnics have been asked to bid to be host to such a team from 1989.

The areas of research are all related to future applications of high-performance materials. They are seen as vital for the development of critical components from aerospace and bioengineering to automotive and marine engineering and civil construction.

Scientists from academic and industrial laboratories have identified the five strategically important fields of research in which Britain is particularly vulnerable.

They are in high performance materials, surface engineering, polymer science and technology, optical and laser science and technology, and the application of computers to a design known as parallel architecture.

The centres are expected to cost a total of £10 million to establish, with annual running

costs for each one of £1-2 million. They will be based at a university or polytechnic with an acknowledged track record in the specific area of science and technology.

Professor Bill Mitchell, chairman of the research council, stresses that the proposals are almost certain to include a plan involving research partnerships with industry.

He warns that the formation of the new IRCs will need extra money from the Government. The council is currently granted £300 million a year, via the Department of Education and Science.

The council's advisers believe the adoption of a true interdisciplinary approach is essential because progress has been hampered through research done in an uncoordinated fashion.

An inability to compete internationally is attributed to the "subcritical" size of the groups working in the UK.

One IRC will concentrate on materials for high performance applications. It will provide a link between materials science and engineering applications and between supplier and user industries, to ensure that materials developments are design oriented.

The IRC in surface engineering will embrace a multitude of techniques and processes employed to induce, modify and enhance the performance — such as resistance to wear, fatigue, corrosion and mechanical and biocompatibility — of the surface of the material.

These will range from more established technologies of painting, electro-plating, weld surfacing, plasma and hyper-velocity spraying; various thermal and thermo-mechanical treatments such as nitriding and carburizing; and the latest technologies such as laser surfacing, physical vapour deposition, ion implantation and operation on the atomic scale.

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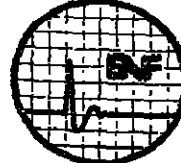
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FOCUS

MATERIALS SCIENCE
AND ENGINEERING/3

Research brings the bionic man closer

Thousands of British patients could soon benefit from advances in new materials

Bionic man has moved a step closer with discoveries in medical technology for renewing diseased and injured bones and joints. Progress has come with steady but big advances in the understanding and development of new materials for "spare parts".

Consequently, there is a quiet revolution in the office, particularly for orthopaedic surgery. In Britain alone several thousand people a year could soon benefit from the achievement.

Trials are in progress with man-made bone and tissue that simulate the properties of the ones they replace. Furthermore, since the substitutes are of advanced plastics and composite materials, this new high-technology medicine promises cheaper treatment.

The reason for successes are almost as fascinating as the individual scientific breakthroughs. It has followed the adoption of the so-called interdisciplinary approach to biomedical research that

has brought the materials scientist into the team.

A leading researcher in the field, Professor William Bonfield, head of the materials department and dean of engineering at Queen Mary College, London, said that the development of replacement joints had a history of more than 100 years of successful collaboration between orthopaedic surgeons and design engineers. But it was only in the past two decades that specialists in materials science "provided the missing link" needed to make further progress.

According to Professor Bonfield, the medical technology of replacement joints had been approaching a plateau. The new members of the team brought a different process for the selection and development of materials from that normally applied to the design of engineering structures.

The start of replacement orthopaedic surgery goes back to the invention of cast iron bone plates, used in Germany in 1886, for internal splinting of broken bones.

The painful and crippling condition produced by osteoarthritis is a world-wide problem. More than 40,000 patients a year in the UK alone benefit from hip replacement. An increasing number of knees, a difficult joint to replicate artificially, are being

replaced together with fingers, ankles, elbows, shoulders wrists and jaws and, to a lesser extent, parts of the spine.

In addition, severe bone fractures are being repaired worldwide with surgically implanted metal plates, nails and screws in at least a million patients each year.

As a treatment for osteoarthritis, successful bone and joint replacement restores mobility to people over the age of 50 who have been totally crippled. Yet the illness affects many younger people. A recent study in the United States indicated that about 10 per cent of the population in the 15-24 age range were already osteoarthritic. In other words, they were suffering some joint degeneration.

But technical problems associated with the loosening and failure of artificial joints militate against major implants of artificial joints in young people.

Today's artificial joints are made of a high quality metal alloy — a cobalt-chromium alloy, stainless steel, with a growing use of

titanium alloy — that move against a surface usually made of ultra-high molecular weight polyethylene, UHMWPE.

In engineering terms, the body is among the most hostile environments in which to put a synthetic material. Existing artificial joints made from traditional substances blend strength and toughness with resistance to wear. They must also resist biological corrosion and adverse reactions.

While the shape of the artificial joints bear a superficial resemblance



Searching for a cure: Professor William Bonfield of Queen Mary College testing a hip joint prosthesis

to the natural ones, they differ in critical ways from natural bone and its surrounding tissue.

Moreover, research is not confined to the alloys. The strength and life of an artificial joint also depends on the quality of the cement that holds it in place.

Research at Queen Mary College is seeking a cementless procedure. Professor Bonfield's group, which is working with specialists at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, at Stanmore, Middlesex, the Royal Postgradu-

ate Medical School and the London Hospital, is one of several international teams devising novel materials formulated by first studying the properties of bone and its related tissue.

For example, none of the synthetic materials can reproduce the elastic behaviour of cortical bone, which forms the thick outer wall of the shaft of the bone. A porous material called cancellous or spongy bone forms the main structure at the ends of the bone.

At its simplest level, Professor

Bonfield describes bone as a composite material. It is a matrix of collagen, a fibrous protein, reinforced with needle-like crystals of a mineral called calcium hydroxyapatite, apatite for short.

Apatite is a natural mineral of the body, found in its purest form in tooth enamel. It is very stiff but not very tough, and cracks spread readily through it.

Collagen on the other hand, which is found throughout the body and comprises most of the material of ligaments, is similar in resilience to thermoplastics such as polypropylene or polyacetal.

Two families of materials have been developed as bone substitutes at Queen Mary College. In both, a matrix is created with a polymer that substitutes for collagen. But apatite is used as the filler. By adjusting the proportion of apatite, the characteristics can be reproduced of a bone of any age.

The first family of materials is based on a matrix of high density polyethylene, which has long-term stability in the body, and is being tested for a range of new replacement joints.

The second family of materials is intended to take the process of natural integration between bone and implant a stage further. The polymer component is a polyester known as polyhydroxybutyrate, PHB, which is a microbial produced molecule. The polymer has the novel property of becoming degraded in the body. In principle, normal tissue will replace the polymer surrounding the apatite to make the implant more like a process of healing.

PW

Built-in strength

Steel surrounds us in buildings, vehicles, and domestic appliances, yet all these applications are the subject of successful developments by specialists in aluminium and other non-ferrous metals, plastics, ceramics and composite, or a hybrid of other materials, writes Pearce Wright

With a better understanding of the atomic structure of natural and synthetic products, scientists have learnt how to exploit microscopic irregularities in materials to make them exceptionally strong and corrosion resistant.

The discovery experts frequently cite as the outstanding case is how a nickel-based superalloy, used for turbine blades, is made stronger. The process, called directional solidification, gives a product that appears as if it was made from a single crystal.

The trend in improving basic materials is most apparent in innovations of transport: road, rail, sea and air. The drive for lighter-weight substitutes in cars began in earnest with the 1973 energy crisis. As a rule of thumb, a cut of 1 per cent in the weight of a road vehicle saves 0.7 per cent in fuel consumption.

That was good news for aluminium and plastics devel-

opers. But there was a twist. While the content of aluminium and plastic in cars has increased, it has only substituted for a fraction of the traditional carbon steel sheet and cast iron. The key replacement has been the high-strength, low-alloy steel which replaces the old carbon steel.

In the intensely competitive car market, the watchword of quality is reflected in the adoption of the latest high performance low-alloy steels for the bodywork.

In this push-me-pull-you competition in material science, the aluminium metallurgists have countered with an alloy incorporating lithium.

Like carbonfibre, the idea of a lithium-aluminium alloy was translated into practice by materials scientists at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, at Farnborough.

The new material, now under development in industry, has produced a stronger and stiffer alloy than existing aluminium products. It has found an early application in struts of a civil aircraft.

But as a reminder of the proverb that "there is no new thing under the sun", since the firm was founded 70 years ago, Aston Martin Cars have been built with aluminium bodies.

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The Materials Information Centre set up by DTI at the Design Centre, is an easy-access reference point for anyone who wants to use improved materials or processing methods. MIC aims to highlight the extensive British network of materials expertise and to encourage industrialists, designers and engineers to grasp the many opportunities offered by developments in this fast moving technology.

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YOUR OWN BUSINESS

A craftsman with sparkle

By Roger Pearson

A growing public demand for individually styled jewellery has given a Kent couple the prospect of a sparkling future.

Robert and Sharon Baker have achieved a 25-fold increase in turnover since they set up shop in Canterbury four years ago. From an initial stock of about £2,000 worth of gold and silver bangles and some antique spoons, the Bakers now hold £70,000 worth of modern and antique jewellery and silverware at the small 18th-century shop and workshop, premises over which they live in Palace Street.

Doctors, judges, millionaires and others from all walks of life are now part of an international clientele built up entirely on the basis of reputation and word of mouth. The business, known simply as R.J. Baker, Goldsmith and Silver-smith, has never been advertised.

"It isn't the sort of business where advertising would be appropriate," says Robert Baker, aged 35, a former student at Medway College of Design. When he and his wife, who also trained at the Medway College, sold their home four years ago to buy the shop and capitalize the new business, the aim was to cater for individual tastes, rather than the mass market. "For many people I am fulfilling the role of a personal jeweller," he says. He was well qualified to succeed in his

newly defined role. While at college he picked up eight national awards for design and craftsmanship. After leaving he worked with commercial jewellery and silverware firms before setting up in

a small workshop in 1979 to restore antiques and to extend his design work.

His design expertise is not just in jewellery but in a wide range of silverware - he is now well known both in the UK and abroad for this.

He has designed and made special pieces for City livery companies and along the way he has been made a Freeman of the City of London and of the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths. He also designed a Falklands War commemorative piece for the Royal Marines.

The design commissions helped, of course, and continue to help to finance the expansion of the business. One of Mr Baker's big boasts is that he has never borrowed a penny for the stock. The build-up has been achieved by continual reinvestment of profits.

"We take the view that if we borrow money we will not be in complete control of our own destiny. At the same time it's fair to say that we do have an understanding bank manager," he says.

"We planned the business from the outset with the aim of being self-financing. Our theory was that there was a healthy market for high-quality, individually styled jewellery at affordable prices and that once we could open up this market the business would come in."

The Bakers: an international clientele newly defined role. While at college he picked up eight national awards for design and craftsmanship. After leaving he worked with commercial jewellery and silverware firms before setting up in

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DISTRIBUTION

FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT
By David Thurlow

Filling the shelves, and bang on time

With the opening up of Europe, services are expanding by land, air and sea

The first contracts to go into Europe with the Single Market in 1992 are signed and everyone is looking one year further to the Channel Tunnel. These are the next logical steps in the booming distribution market.

The revolution has swept away the past with its leisurely four or five-stage chain with lorries picking up the goods from manufacturers and passing them on to retailers via other manoeuvres until they reach the customer.

There are around 300,000 vehicles from 38-tonners down to light vans distributing goods. A big lorry can cost £60,000, but as the business has grown to vast proportions the number of vehicles that travel British roads round the clock has stayed much the same over the last decade. The reason is simple: efficiency and every aspect of technology that has come with the change.

Nothing illustrates this more than a recent trend: beer used to be delivered by dray pulled by shire horses (and still is as a sales gimmick or for convenience in some areas) and then lorries.

Now the brewers are following the example of grocery and multiple stores in contracting out their delivery operations. This leaves them with untouched capital, the delivery in expert hands without having to provide a fleet of vehicles and men to run them.

There is no product that cannot now be contracted out to one of the specialist firms in the multi-billion pound business. Seventy per cent of the grocery retail market, an enormous business with big groups taking more and more of the trade, now use contract distribution, either sharing with other companies or having a contract with one specialist company on their own.

According to experts, this aspect of the business is going to grow. Mark Bodeman, managing director of market leaders NFC Distribution Group, says that with more and more multi-stores, and with distribution accounting for from 7 per cent up to 20 per cent of the costs, it will put even more strains on management to cope with increasing demand for modern products, home shopping and home delivery, especially as the number of stores contract into fewer hands. They will look to distributors to take that strain away and provide the service which can produce great savings.

In 1975 there were 86,000 grocery retail outlets. By 1980 they

distribution areas such as parcels and freight becoming an equally competitive market.

Fast delivery service and business-to-business parcels delivery are just as big money as groceries.

Royal Mail Parcels, part of the Post Office, has recently invested £30 million into a network called SuperService with a 10,000-strong transport fleet and 10 main parcel hubs and guaranteed parcel delivery. But it is under attack from private sector operators such as Securicor, TNT and Federal Express. Companies like these are

dedicated contract in 1982 to distribute to its 3,000 publicans in London and the north Home Counties. This resulted in seven warehouses being reduced to two, the introduction of computerization and other savings and the cost now is less than it was when the operation started six years ago.

The ultimate for all businesses is a network of centralized warehouses, stocked with thousands of bar-coded items, a computerization system which looks after delivery and control and a filling-shelves backup from the suppliers.

The system which Hoskyns Distribution Services has put in for Reckitt and Colman pharmaceutical division is an example. It covers order processing, inventory and distribution management, the taking of customer orders, processing and pricing, controlling stocks and having a series of different products ready for distribution and being ready for any increased production demand.

This is another step towards "Just in Time", the system of the future to get goods to the store when needed and to fill shelves.

The third-party distribution market in retail grocery is worth £600 million. Some distribution companies have adopted a technique of going to established companies in any field, first recruiting specialists who work not only in that field but in transport. In that way they can go and sell their product with expert knowledge and show how costs can be cut and efficiency increased.

The TNT spokesman said: "More and more companies are realizing that this gives them great advantages. There is very heavy competition."

The change has meant that the days of short contracts, once they are won, is over. Companies such as NFC, TNT, NCCS and Tiphook want three to five-year contracts because of the millions of pounds in capital cost that has to be laid out.

Warehouses, vehicles (£40,000 a year to run at the top of the range), automation and handling costs a great deal to set up. Salaries are also high in a growing market where training centres are des-

perately needed to fill the demand.

As the cost-cutting and efficiency is clearly visible, other fields want to expand and join in.

In the clothing industry, Next has moved into the home delivery market. It issued its lavish home shopping catalogue in January promising a 48-hour delivery, including weekends, which is already a success. Next will be followed by others, giving additional outlets and benefits to families who can choose what they want from top-class catalogues and buy by phone, paying by credit card.

Department stores such as House of Fraser are following the trend, with dedicated contracts for

servicing their stores and home deliveries of furniture.

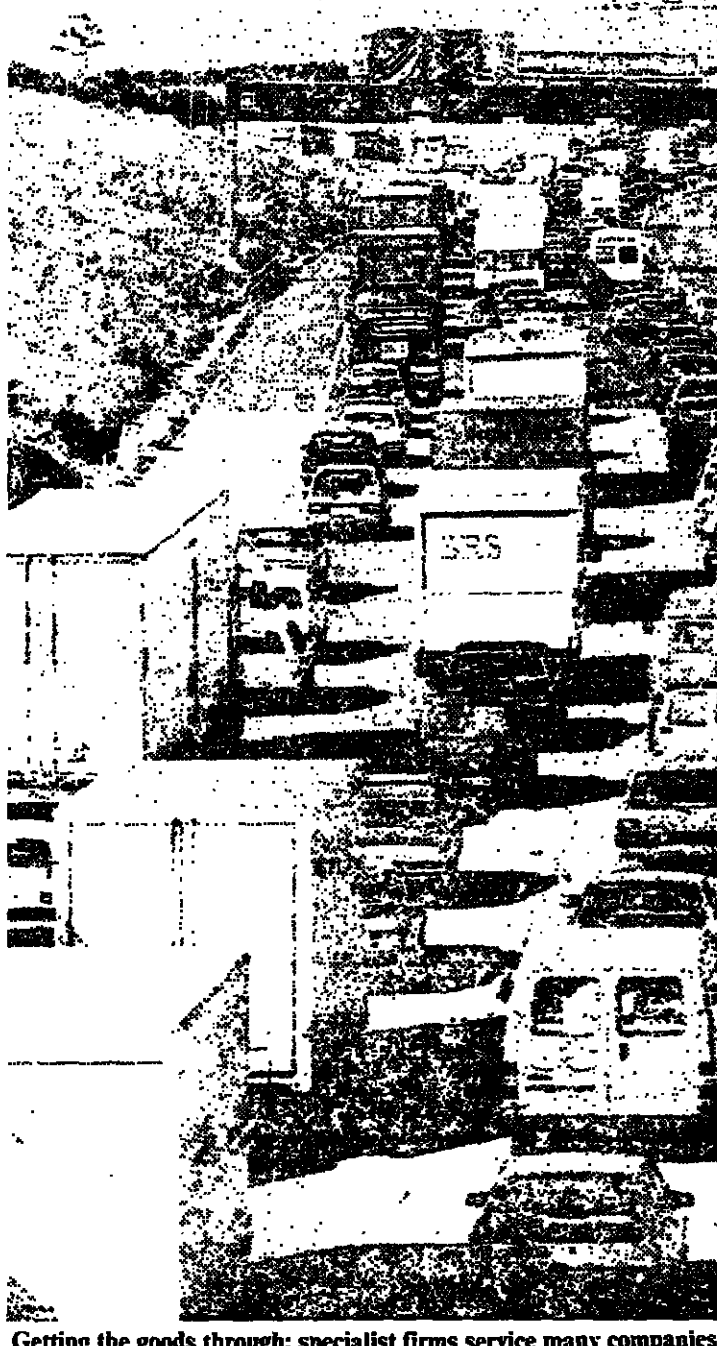
Business deliveries are also in the forefront, with public companies such as British Rail and the Post Office battling with the private sector to get the packages there faster.

Overnight delivery is standard not just throughout Britain but to the Continent as the competition takes in rail and air as well as road (and often interlinking with river and canal where eight million tonnes of cargo was carried last year).

The only restriction is the size of the transport, one distributor said. No aircraft can carry as much as rail.



Speed: Regular early-morning deliveries direct to the newsagents



Getting the goods through: specialist firms service many companies

The fight for Europe

Europe is a market where the possibilities for distribution companies are endless. British competitors believe they have the initial edge over rivals with experience and highly efficient systems that are being improved as business increases.

Martyn Pellew, sales and marketing director of the £160 million NFC Group, says: "The Channel Tunnel and 1992 is a golden expansion opportunity because distribution in this country is very sophisticated. The size and domination of major grocery retailers and other multiples is enormous."

"When multiples get together they are able to create excellent quality and service because they put sophistication into buying and distribution."

"The date is not far away. We are investigating how to create joint ventures because it takes time to set up new warehouses."

The only challenge he and others see is in price competition from some Mediterranean countries, but that is only marginal because the Continental owner-driver system does not compare with the British package system operated by companies such as Sainsbury, Tesco, Gateway, Marks & Spencer and Asda.

The British challenge will probably be three pronged:

- The green field approach where a company starts from scratch, setting up a motorway network;

- Buying an existing European company;

- Setting up a joint venture with an existing European distribution or consumer company.

There will obviously be snags. Experts believe that those who can speak different languages will fare better than those that believe that English-only will get by.

Peter Newson, managing director of Davies and Robson, a leader in independent consultants in distribution, says: "The harmonization of the EEC is still a long way from being achieved. There is for instance the difference in lorry weights and some governments, such as the French and Germans, have a bias towards rail."

"These things will have to be gone into but the opportunities are definitely there and that is the next step for the business."

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It is the natural development from decades of Ryder truck rental and contract hire experience.

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Transport is one element. With more than 7,000 vehicles owned and maintained by Ryder in the UK, 41 workshop centres, and a round-the-clock nationwide emergency recovery service, Ryder has formidable resources.

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By becoming an integral part of your operation, Ryder ensures greater distribution reliability, versatility and cost-effectiveness.

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Salaries leap in hunt for managers

Serious shortage of top men has led to a sharp rise in headhunting

The enormous growth of the distribution industry with its complex storing and delivery systems has created a problem that few companies foresaw: a serious shortage of qualified managers.

So short are they in supply that salaries leap up and up as companies headhunt from their competitors.

It is an indication of the growth that there are 230,000 management positions and the 10 per cent middle-to-senior management grades cost £500 million in salaries a year.

Robert Wileman, director of Trans Promotions Ltd, management, recruitment and training consultants, said: "CBI figures show that only one-seventh of the demand for managers is available in industry generally and distribution is even worse. The supply of qualified, competent managers is falling well below demand."

"The quality of existing managers is under criticism too. They don't have sufficient basic competence. The de-

mand for managers is increasing as the school leaving population is falling. There are a few higher level training colleges for the industry but the number of graduates is in the low hundreds and we need thousands."

To counter the shortage some of the major companies are already starting their own training schemes as salaries rise 8 to 15 per cent a year, with an average for middle

Costs have risen beyond inflation because of the huge investment

management around £23,000, and top management in the £40,000 to £60,000 range.

NFC and TNT do in-house training. They see that without recruiting graduates, training their own staff and looking to the future, they might lose out to competitors. They feel that those who do not do so

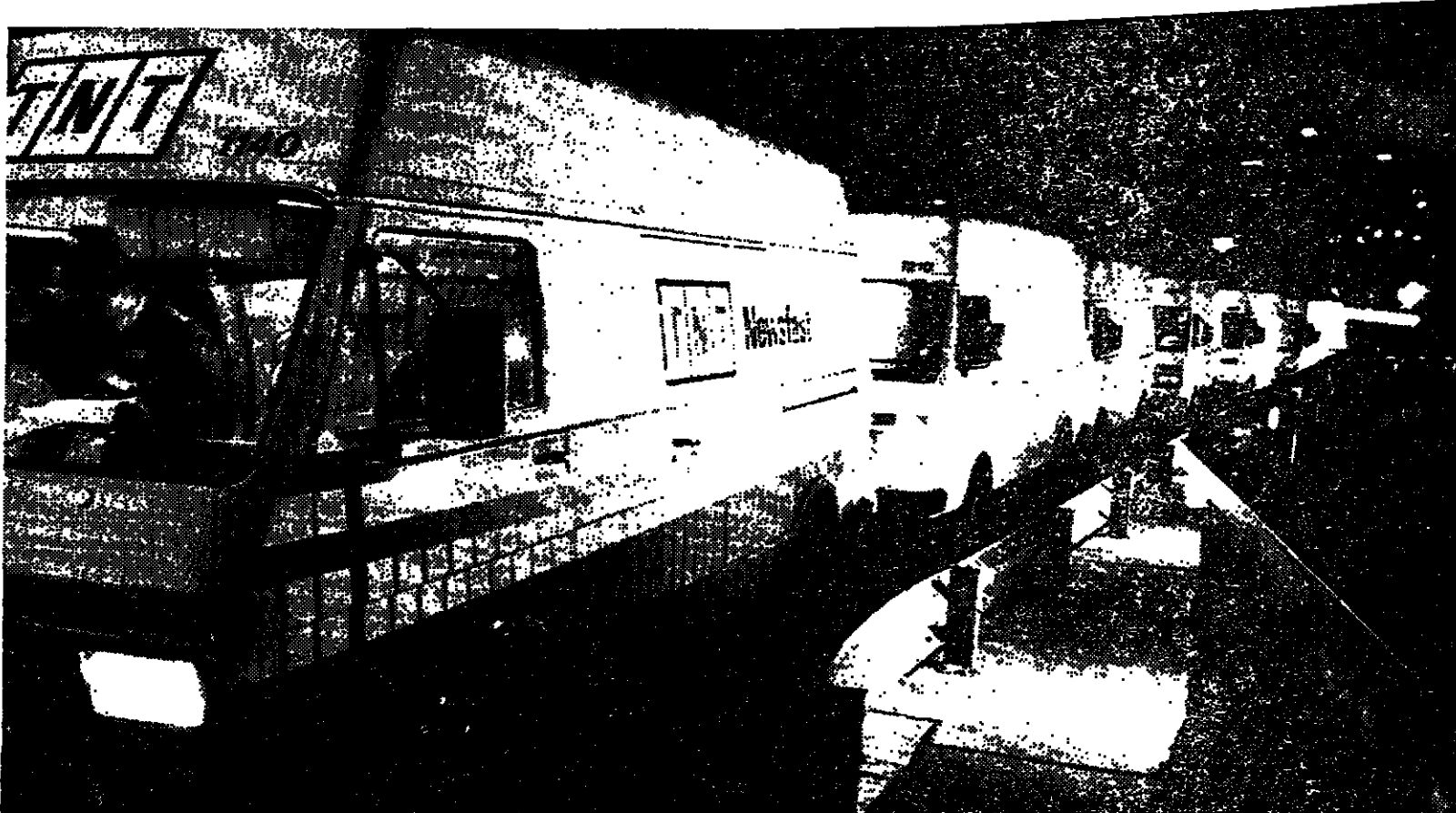
will reap "the rewards of their own short sightedness."

Mr Wileman, who has major clients like Coca Cola-Schweppes, Whitbread and Christian Salvesen, said: "It is an enormous business and its growth and complexity is bringing problems."

"Costs have risen ahead of inflation for a long time because of the huge capital investment. Companies put in automation and computerization and build warehouses. There are tens of thousands of different goods to be handled and it becomes more and more complex. Warehouses have to be larger and larger."

Such premises are growing in line with the size of the companies. For the next generation of warehouses a quarter of a million square feet will be normal.

Mr Wileman said: "The whole concept now is for a chain to contract out to cut costs and use the capital to improve their services for the customer."



Ready to go: TNT Newsfast lorries form convoy to carry the morning newspapers through the night

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In time and in stock

Just in Time sounds like a song or television show title. In the distribution business they are the buzz words. It is the ultimate in striving for perfection.

It has been created by the sheer size and market-power of the super and multiple stores. In food, for example, 13 major groups led by Sainsbury, Tesco, Asda, Safeway, Dees, Co-op, Asda and Marks and Spencer hold 80 per cent of the market and they want the most efficient and fast service that can be devised at the most competitive price.

The Americans started the ideal. We are following and it is the next development which has already started in some areas.

This is the route: when the experts moved in they found that the first need was to have a central warehouse of enormous size on a green field site by an expanding motorway system.

There are few available and the competition to find them and then secure planning permission, as multistore shopping moves out of town, is immense.

Once the warehouse was established, there were thousands of items to be stored and needed on a continual supply basis from manufacturer to warehouse to store to customer.

Computerization solved that problem together with sophisticated stacking that put goods in the right place for the right collection. Added to that the specialists realized it was better to have their own manufacturers for certain goods in the way that companies like Marks and Spencer have had for years.

Knowing where the goods were in the warehouse, having staff to load and unload lorries which were making timed pickups and deliveries, was the next stage but it still left one more gap: having to hold large amounts of stock.

That is where the Just in Time policy came in. Instead

of stores and warehouses, with vast stocks that might not sell immediately, distribution companies, which are introducing the Just in Time service, replenish the shelves only when needed with a trough and peak system.

The chain is already almost complete in some stores. Now manufacturers supply the warehouse as the stock goes to the store to fill the gap created by the customer.

A spokesman for the £160 million NFC group said: "It releases the amount of stock held and the amount of investment needed."

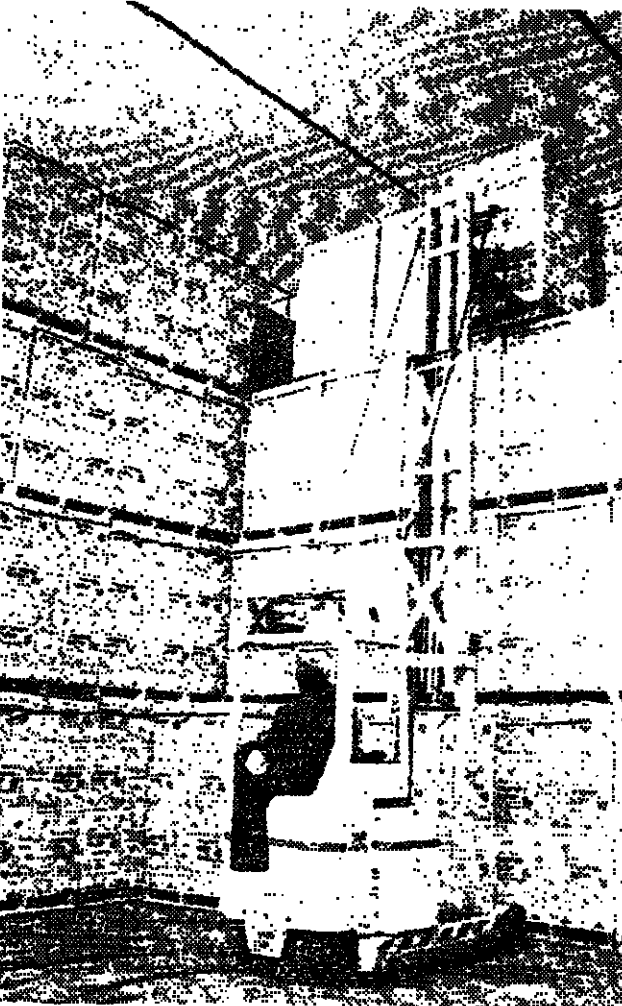
"The utopian ideal is a time horizon where the manufacturer pulls in the raw material yesterday, makes it today, stores it this afternoon and has it back replenishing the shelf to sell tomorrow."

"The reality at the moment is weeks but it is coming down to days as Just in Time becomes a reality. It is happening with motor components and some of the multiples and talks are going on in the business with many major retailers."

Just in Time is operated in a slightly different way in other outlets. Frozen and chilled foods and goods need the system for freshness as well as stock replacement.

Hays Distribution Services, who arranged the first ever shipments of imported butter, cheese and meat in their 300 year history, are building a massive 225,000 sq ft multi-temperature depot, one of seven for which Tesco's have awarded vast contracts to be built and running by January, all geared to the Just in Time principle.

Fresh flowers, vegetables and goods like sandwiches all come into this type of business. The Wincanton Group delivers sandwiches to 130 BHS stores nationwide every day as just one of their must-be-there on time services which include moving milk, wine, a variety of liquids, chemicals and petroleum.



Keeping cool: a packed warehouse of dairy products

Network
circle the

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by other

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TRANS

Networks that circle the globe

The delivery of parcels is fast, highly competitive and big business. The latest figures show that the market is worth more than £1 billion a year with £500 million coming from next-day delivery services and £600 million from second and third-day delivery.

The Post Office leads in parcel deliveries for second and third-day delivery and is total market leader with £550 million revenue. It has just invested £30 million in SuperService, with 10 main parcel hubs and a 1,000-strong road transport fleet which offers a guaranteed 48-hour delivery aimed at clients who plan to spend at least £10,000 a year.

It links up with Datapost, a £60 million same-day service in Britain and into Europe, and, by aircraft, to the rest of the world.

Its new investment is necessary to keep rivals at bay. Securicor and TNT both earned £100 million in the latest league table with first-day deliveries and a lesser proportion for slightly later deliveries, but like the Post Office they are aiming at even faster times.

TNT runs a mail system in direct competition with the Post Office for companies sending letters and mail shots.

Red Star, British Rail's leader and third in the table, has just added a guaranteed overnight delivery to the door by 10.30am next day. Using road, rail and air they have 500 parcel points in Britain with airbases linking London with Scotland and Northern Ireland, and another base at Charleroi in Belgium for dispatch to 15 other European countries.

Red Star, now in its silver jubilee year, has included the United States in its area and is confident of fighting off private sector firms who are equally determined to take more of a share in a market that can only swell and grow with the approach of the Channel Tunnel and the 1992 Single Market.

The Continent is not the limit. Companies such as TNT already fly the world and the international traffic is big and enlarging. It has grown from about 5 million packages in 1980 to more than 40 million last year.



Ready and waiting: one of the Post Office's 10 new computerized SuperService depots, at Leeds, above. Left: a Datapost aircraft speeds deliveries

BR is getting there — by other methods

As speed and centralization become vital aspects of the distribution trade, change is hitting the traditional systems.

Next month British Rail is to discontinue its newspaper train delivery service which has been in operation for decades.

Until 1986, it had a revenue of £30 million from newspapers alone but once the News International titles (including *The Times*) switched to road delivery, BR was deprived of £9 million a year. Later, the Mirror Group defected with the loss of another £5 million. Rail delivery was no longer a profitable business.

Newspapers, however, account for just a small part of the huge rail distribution network of goods and bulk cargoes. Last year the railways carried 77 million tonnes of coal and coke, 17 million tonnes of iron and steel, 36 million tonnes of general freight such as oil, wood and liquids, and 7.5 million tonnes of containers — a total of 138 million tonnes.

This is regarded as a success story for Railfreight, the cargo side of BR, because two years ago it carried only 66 million tonnes with a £263 million loss after the miners' strike.

Last year the trading profit was £24.7 million and it faces the future with great confidence because the Channel Tunnel will give rail the edge over other forms of transport.

Peter Newson, a leading consultant in distribution, said: "British Rail will be able to carry goods in great bulk. Already they have a system in this country where they have road-feeder systems from their railheads and they will be able to do that on the Continent."

Like the road distribution companies, Railfreight with

New customers are bringing in the cash

its Speedlink section has gone out to attract new custom. Much of this has come from the private sector.

A Railfreight spokesman said: "Private industry is showing its faith in our future with its own cash."

All the many new contracts recently won involved privately owned or leased wagons. One newcomer was the Tiphook Group, a fast growing company with a £39 million turnover, which has

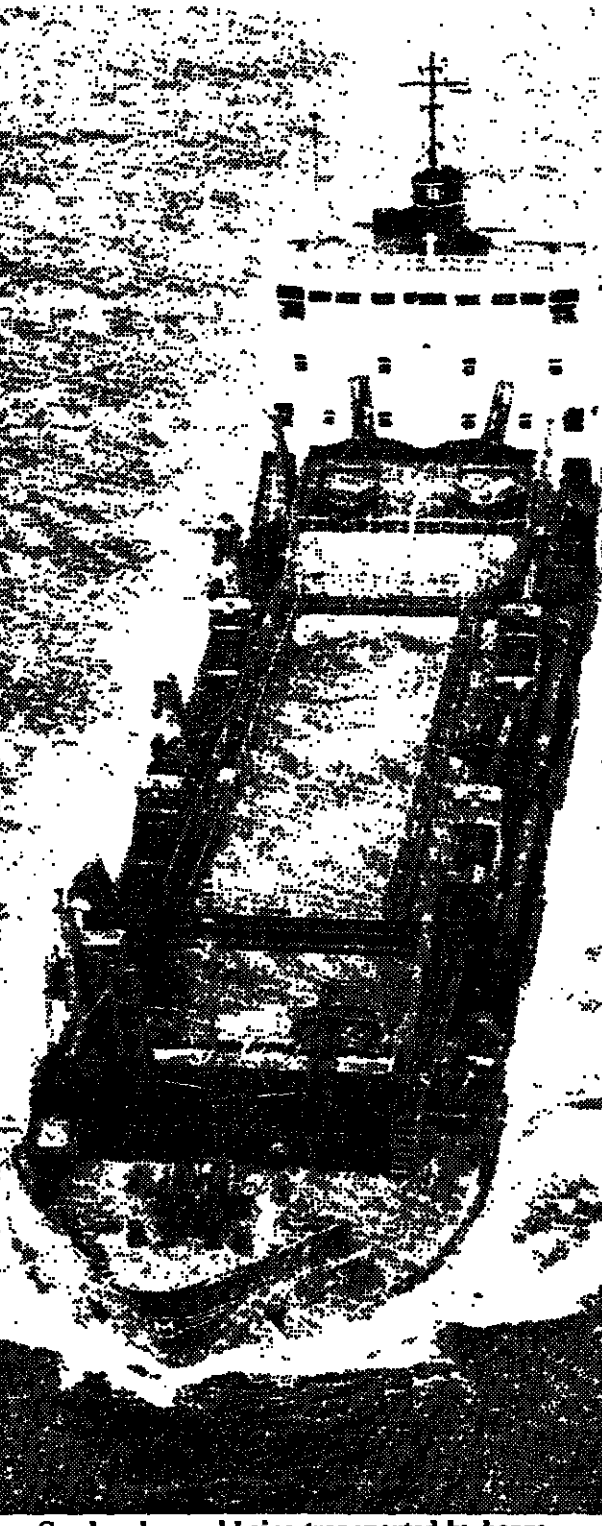
just gone into the rail side with a fleet of 200 wagons, an investment of £6 million, with an eye to Europe and plans for another 800 wagons by the end of next year.

The private sector is responsible too for setting up 65 of the dozens of rail-road transshipment terminals which Speedlink operate.

Another important form of bulk transport is the inland waterways. Even though the figures in gross terms are nothing compared with the millions of tonnes of goods hauled on the roads, latest figures show that 8 million tonnes of cargo was carried on the canals and rivers of Britain in a year.

In shipping terms, there are 82 tankers, 51 tugs, 186 dry barges, 330 dumb barges, the ones that are towed, and 62 tanker barges gently chugging the 2,000 miles of waterways carrying steel, chemicals, timber, coke, salts, oils and aggregates.

A spokeswoman said: "When there is a major flow of bulk commodity of low value with no major urgency you cannot beat water transport. Otherwise, two or three hundred tonnes at a time needs an awful lot of trucks on the roads."



Sand and gravel being transported by barge

Making the case for rental

Trailer rental is an up-and-coming idea. Although most companies, manufacturers and retailers prefer to have their own trailers, the advantages of renting is a factor that is being considered as tax changes may in future alter the balance whereby the system of capital allowance may change for ownership.

Then there is the capital cost which can be as high as £40,000 for a refrigerated unit, which is becoming more popular, and the possibility of changes in usage and demand which can make renting, as opposed to ownership, a better financial option.

The market for tens of thousands of trailers in the UK and more than half a million in Europe is dominated by owned trailers. It is early days in trailer-rental thinking but the owned domination is very slowly being eroded.

Leading companies based in Britain include Tip Europe, Rentco and Tiphook. Tiphook Container Rental claim the largest fleet in the world outside the US and their Central Trailer rental fleet operating in Europe has more than 4,000 trailers in this country alone (about half the European number), operating from nine depots.

They will have a total European fleet of 10,000 units by next year, with a further investment of millions of pounds. Like other companies, they already have depots all over mainland Europe. Their trailers are used by major manufacturers and distribution companies.

Experts see the trailer market increasing year by year, with the rented side increasing its percentage as Europe opens up at the start of the 1990s.

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Criterion for indirect race bias

LORD JUSTICE LAUGHTON said that had the court not been bound by *Gravett* he was by no means sure that he would have reached a different conclusion from the court in that case.

If the applicant's construction is correct, an employer who, without any intention of discriminating on racial

LORD JUSTICE DILLON said that it was not necessary to express any view as to what conclusion he would have reached if the court had not been

Case for considering abrogation of rule

of rule

The House of Lords held in *V. Yorke Motors v Edwards* (1982) 1 WLR 444 that under Order 29, rule 11 there was no discretion to impose such a condition as a condition of granting leave to defend a financial condition that it would be impossible to fulfil.

In principle, it seems that the same reasoning applied in a case where judgment was set aside. Since the civil rather than the criminal standard of proof was applicable for the purposes of Order 29, rule 11 there appeared to be a case for consideration as to whether Order 29, rule 15 might be abrogated.

Solicitors: Huggins & Co;
Inward Fearon & Co.

Case for considering abrogation of rule

[illegible]

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From Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent, Amsterdam

individuals is dangerously exclusive. Gullit, the European Footballer of the Year who was rested on Wednesday, "will have to be tied down or picked up whenever he comes through". That, as Cruyff might have pointed out, is yet another problem.

By Clive White

for Walsall as they achieved belated promotion to the second division. Cascarino was left alone to shiver on the substitutes' bench as the rain brought down the Oslo temperature to 10 degrees below zero. The match between the two warm-up squads before West Germany.

But Cascarino quickly warmed to his task when brought on for Tottenham about an hour and was unfortunate not to figure in an Irish goal, either as maker or taker.

Charlton, who put down Cascarino in Republic "dress legs," could, and probably will, do worse than start with this pair in West Germany. "It's only you people in the Press who are so stupid," he once said while reiterating the view that Stokely has other qual-

By Ian Ross

Paul Gascoigne, the highly rated England under-21 international, is expected to leave James's Park during the summer.

While Reid's decision is not wholly unexpected following his appointment as first-team coach at Goodison Park 12 months ago, it will come as a relief to Colin Harvey, the Everton manager, who has had to face several disenfranchised players since the end of the disappointing season.

Yesterday's announcement will not, however, deflect Harvey from his attempt to persuade Bradford City to accept an £850,000 bid for Scottish under-21 international, Stuart McCall.

The Football Association is expected shortly to announce the appointment of a new secretary (Stuart Jones writes). The favourite to succeed Ted Croker who is to retire because of illness is Ronald Allison. Formerly a BBC newscaster and Press officer at Crystal Palace, he is head of sport at Thames Television.

Charles Hughes, the FA's head of coaching, is considered his main rival. Other candidates are David Oxley and Glen Kirtton, the respective secretaries of the Rugby League and the FA.

From Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent, Seville

go, and beat them, too, winning in 7min 45.45sec.

It was only Cram's second 3,000 metres since winning the European junior title in 1979, and he was clearly relishing losing his world title in Rome last year, a disaster he is still unable to explain.

But he is aware that one win does not make a summer any more exciting than the last. He apparently signalled the end of an era. He said: "I was very pleasing to win, but I'm not going to walk around now thinking everything's cut and dried for the season. It just means I'm going to be more confident rather than if the race had been dodgy. I'm looking forward to the season now, but the point is to run well at 800 and 1,500 metres."

His essay at his primary Olympic distance is a 1,500 metres Saturday week in Casablanca, where Said Aouita

FOR THE RECORD

[illegible]

Victory salute: Jonas Svensson, the unseeded Swede, who surprised Ivan Lendl, the champion, 7-6, 7-5, 6-2 at the French championships in Paris yesterday. Report, page 44

EQUESTRIANISM

By Jenny MacArthur

Annette Lewis made a typically bold start to the four-day Nations Cup meeting at Hickstead yesterday when she and her Dutch-bred gelding, Tutein, won the Everest Double Glazing Stakes after an inspired round against the clock.

Most of Europe's top riders were competing in the competition, including the two favourites for gold medal in Seoul — John Whitaker with Next Milton and the Frenchman, Pierre Durrand, on Jappeloup.

Lewis, aged 23, has never shown any lack of confidence when competing in such competitions. She won the Dayby trial on the same course two years ago. Yesterday, going last but one, she had to beat Harvey Smith's fast time of 40.76secs on Brook Street Shining Example. Tutein finished in 39.24secs, relegating Smith to second place. Geoff Auld, of Australia, on Whisper Grey, took third place.

The competition, which was a qualifying round for tomorrow's Grand Prix, lasted three hours — a marathon even by Hickstead's standards. Of the 58 starters, 24 went clear, and qualified for the jump-off.

One of the most impressive first rounds came from David Broome on Queensway

By a Special Correspondent

The most adventurous and futuristic equestrian sport and leisure complex in Britain — The Glencraggs Mark Phillips Equestrian Centre — was opened in Auchterader, Perthshire, yesterday, appropriately by The Prince of Wales.

The £3 million investment, supported by Guinness, is unique in its dual purpose to serve up to 480 guests and provide specialist training programmes in equestrian sports and disciplines in equestrian sport. It will also stage a wide variety of competition.

Four British Show Jumping Association affiliated events are planned for this year, the aim being to offer an international

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Luchurst, the Englishman who spent seven seasons playing for the Atlanta Falcons, will be the presenter of Channel 4's National Football League programmes for the coming season (Robert Kirby writes).

Luchurst, who has won the PFA and FWA awards for the best defender in the country, and who has won the FA and UEFA cups with Arsenal and the World Cup with the Netherlands, will be joined by the likes of Steve Nouri and Andy Smart after this season, has ended his association with the Atlanta Falcons but stressed that he will continue his playing career in the future. He made nine of 13 field-goal attempts and 17 conversions last year.

Simon Reed, the producer, said that the coverage, which will begin in September, will entail the traditional Sunday afternoon football programme, a programme and an action-orientated programme on an as yet undetermined night. Luchurst's segments will be shot and packaged in Atlanta.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

CRICKET

First Cornhill Test Match
11.0.90 over minimum
Trent Bridge; England v West Indies.

Britannic Assurance
1.0 to 5.30 or 6.0 (or 102 over)
SOUTHAMPTON: Hampshire v Somerset.
SOUTHFORD: Kent v Nottinghamshire.
TOTTENHAM: Northamptonshire v Yorkshire.

THE OVAL: Surrey v Sussex.
WORCESTER: Worcestershire v Lancashire.

Other match
1.0 to 5.30 or 6.0
THE PARKS: Oxford University v Gloucestershire.

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP: Canterbury
v Surrey; Old Trafford:
Gloucestershire v Nottinghamshire; Leicestershire
v Worcestershire; Middlesex v Warwickshire; Yorkshire
v Hampshire; Essex v Somerset.

see v Essex, Scarborough; Yorkshire v Hampshire; Lancashire v Gloucestershire.

MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP:
Eastern division: Worthington; Cumberland
v Suffolk; Barton on Trent (Ind
Coop); Staffordshire v Hertfordshire.

OTHER SPORT

CYCLING: Milk Race (Fifth stage: Cardiff to Aberystwyth).

EQUESTRIANISM: Nations Cup (at Hickstead): Carphone Birmingham event; Tilly Walker carriage driving trials (at Hickstead Hall, Cambridgeshire).

GOLF: British Amateur championship (at Royal Portcullis); Dunhill British masters (at Woburn); Broadway Group Wrist case (at Gaily).

POLO: Queen's Cup (at Windsor).

SPEEDWAY: Matches at Peterborough; Belle Vue; Hackney.

SQUASH RACKETS: Dunlop champion of champions (at Cantons Club, London).

SWIMMING: Match long course championships (at Cardiff).

TENNIS: ITA tournament (at Beckenham and Manchester).

YACHTING: Weymouth Olympic week.

SPORT ON TV

BASEBALL 1988: ITV 4 a.m. (tomorrow): Detroit Tigers v Chicago White Sox.
Cricknet: BBC1 10.20-11.50 a.m. BBC2 11.55-1.15, 1.35-2.00 (including golf); 2.15-6.05 p.m. (including golf and show emprog); Highlights 11.20 p.m. First on Channel 5. England v West England v Walsley from Trent Bridge.

EQUESTRIANISM: BBC2 2.15 p.m.: Eventer Double Glasgow Trophy from Hickstead.

GOLF: BBC2 2.15 p.m.: Dunhill British masters: Second round coverage from Woburn.

MOTOR SPORT: BBC1 3.10 p.m.: First on the Grid. A look at last year's Formula First season.

RACING: CA 2.30 p.m.: 2.35, 3.05, 3.40 and 4.10 p.m.: Race from Doncaster.

STREET HOCKEY: CA 5.30 p.m.: Tennent's Super National championship from Leicester.

CYCLING

By Peter Bryan

On a day that marked the end of Joy McLaughlin's attempt to win his second Milk Race, the disappointment was almost forgotten when Gary Baker, of the Britannia team, produced the first home victory of this year's 1,150 mile race. In the final stages of the long race, the fourth, which linked Plymouth and Weston-super-Mare along a route of 121 miles, Baker, aged 23 and living in Colchester, won the finishing sprint from twentieth position in a pack of about 85 riders.

McLaughlin, who was the first to start, was the last of the 1,150 to start. He was the last to finish, too, as he was held up by a traffic jam in London last Monday. After 90 minutes yesterday, with visibility restricted to 15 yards, the race was suspended and the team cut and immediately dismissed close to tears.

He had received treatment the previous evening for tendonitis but the injury did not respond to medical treatment and was causing him excruciating pain. He was advised to stop by the race doctor to avoid aggravating the condition. His next major test should be the Tour de France build-up in the second half of the United States and the Polish rider, Marek Kulak. Bailey took the lead at 33 miles and was first joined by Kulas and then Baker. The two had built up a lead of 8 miles and were 8½ miles into the race when the race was stopped and then the dancer

HOCKEY

From Sydney Friskin, Ipoh, Malaysia

The long-awaited announcement of the Great Britain squad for the Olympic Games in Seoul will be made on June 20, two days before the first of two international matches against Australia.

Discussing the plans here yesterday, Roger Self, the team manager, said that he was looking forward to having a full squad at his disposal. Kerly, for instance, who has scored Britain's only goal so far against the Poles in the European Tournament, had become available for the first time since the Lada Class in October last year.

Before the final choice is made a last look will be taken at the 1988 European Cup against France on June 18 and 19 at Lille where Barber and Bhaura among other Olympic aspirants will be in the side.

A watchful eye will also be kept on the Germanies, Martin, McConnell, Kirkwood and Morris, who will be playing for the combined Ireland team in

BADMINTON

From Richard Eaton, Kuala Lumpur

The All-England champion, Ib Frederiksen, and the former European champion, Jens-Peter Eide, created a note of controversy when they merely went through the motions in the Thomas Cup bronze medal match in the world team championships. Comments from some of the Danes that they would like the match for third place to be scrapped.

Denmark duly lost 0-5 in less than two hours, providing Indonesia with their consolation match for their first defeat in the world on Tuesday. But it did not please the crowd, which whistled its disapproval at the dilatory Danes.

The possibility now is that the International Badminton Federation (IBF) will consider a third place concept. Arthur Jones, of England, the chairman of the IBF championships and tournament committee, said: "I think the management committee should consider whether there is a need for it. Indeed we shall look at the

JUDO

Money prizes will be offered for the first time in a judo competition in this country in September (Nicolas Soames contests the event in five weight categories (under 50kg, under 55kg, under 60kg, under 65kg and under 71kg).

Following the French initiative to stage a post-Olympic tournament with money prizes, the idea crosses the Channel with the Prudential Assurance Cup, when a £500 first prize will be given to the winning youth team in the tournament at the new High Wycombe judo club. Twenty-four teams of five young men, aged under 20, will

TRY THIS

Paul Maher's suggestion for a sporting day out

WAUX BREWERIES BRITISH NATIONAL OPEN PARACHUTE CHAMPIONSHIPS: For the third year in a row, Bridlington is the venue for the event, which starts tomorrow and finishes on June 12. The competition has three disciplines, with men and women competing in the same events. The disciplines will be at steeple for the Scott Olympic Games, where parachuting is one of the demonstration sports. In the Style section, competitors will fall for 5,500 feet, performing a series of manoeuvres, and the dock, airborne gymnastics with penalties for over-compensating. The Accuracy event consists of a straightforward jump, where the parachutist has to select a target area for greater accuracy, attempts to land on a five-centimetre electronic disc from a ceiling of 3,500ft. Canopy Relative Work (CRW) is the

final section, in which four or eight men teams, with open parachute, link up to complete specific manoeuvres or set formations within a time limit.

Julian Spencer, of Headcorn returns to defend the senior men's overall title he won last year. His top position in the former category, Lee carried on with Royal Artillery, who finished runner up despite winning the Accuracy section.

How to get there: British Skydiving Association, Bridlington aerodrome, Bridlington, North Humberside (01262-577367) is on the A165 Southborough road, three miles north of Bridlington. Ample car parking for spectators. The event is free for spectators. Weather permitting descending starts at 8 a.m. (or earlier, excluding Sunday, if fine) and continues until dusk.

Marshall counters England's start

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

TRENT BRIDGE (England won the toss): England have scored 220 for five wickets against West Indies.

Mid-afternoon at Trent Bridge found England in a position for which they would have given much at breakfast time. The apprehensions of a crucial day were melting away. Within a matter of three hours, however, the old familiar fears were back, the incomparable Malcolm Marshall having turned the opening act of this Cornhill series on its head.

Gooch and Broad had gathered 125 runs, mostly with comforting certainty, when Marshall intervened. Sacrificing speed for control on a heavily seamed pitch, he took four prime wickets for 14 runs in seven overs which might profitably be filmed as an instructional course.

The versatility of Marshall cannot be overstated. This was bowling of impeccable skill and stamina by a man, now aged 30, who is unfailingly inspired by the Test match atmosphere. If England's players had listened in hope to those rumour-mongers who suggested he was past his best, they were being rapidly disillusioned.

A recovery of sorts was underway by the close. A protracted day - West Indies needing an extra 30 minutes to complete the statutory 90 overs - ended with England 220 for five, Pringle bravely unbeaten on 39. The cricket had never been less than absorbing, yet it was a day which mysteriously failed to animate a decent sized crowd. The ground was still and eerily silent almost throughout.

Despite spurning the option to play an extra spinner when local opinion insisted the pitch would turn, Gooch happily batted first on winning the toss. He was vindicated by his openers.

Accepting the plain message of a slow pitch, Richards quickly reduced his close field, but Gooch, in particular, was still able to find the gaps. A year ago, he was in the depths of depression, form and confidence having deserted him. Now, he is arguably in the best form of his life.

When he reached 29, Gooch became the sixteenth Englishman to score 4,000 Test runs. His average at this level still

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hovers just below 40, the target for all class players, but that may change this summer.

Hooper's off-spin was introduced before lunch and he turned two balls in his first over. Like Harper, however, he is not an obvious taker of wickets in Test cricket, and by lunchtime Richards was back to exhorting his pace attack to greater effort. He was answered instantly by Ambrose, who beat Broad three times in an over, and then by the persevering Marshall.

Gooch had gone past 50, in 133 minutes, with a characteristic straight-driven four. Anything remotely short was whipped through square leg with fluent facility and a century was further assured when Marshall began to obtain substantial swing under increasing cloud.

On 69, Gooch edged Marshall to second slip, where

Greenidge spilled the catch in front of his face. Marshall, not best pleased, then bowled Gooch every delivery in the manual, defeating him three times in succession and winning a wave of acknowledgement. The reward came two overs later.

Marshall had ironically just received an official warning for following through on the pitch. Not the least put out, he tempted Gooch with a booming in-swing, which the inside edge of a lavish drive deflected into leg stump.

Now it was Broad's turn to struggle. He was bowled by a no-ball from Patterson, remarkably the fifth such instance to befall West Indies in a fortnight. Then he took his eyes off a bouncer and was hit between the shoulder blades.

Richards was surprisingly slow to react to the changed circumstances by summoning more attacking fielders. When he did so, it worked instantly, Logie catching Gooch off bat and thigh only four balls after being brought in to short leg. It had taken Broad three and a half hours to reach 50 and he was another 30 minutes over four more runs. After such a battle, he was doubtless disappointed when the umpires decided there was just enough time for a final over before tea. It was a significant decision. The fourth ball bowled Broad off the inside edge when he might have been further forward. The last ball, delayed until after the interval, swung in to have Lamb leg-before as he played familiarly around his front pad.

This was the end of Marshall's influence for the day. This morning, with the new ball due, he will be back thirsting for more. He has put on weight since last we saw him and there is a suspicion of thinning on top. But the force is still with him, the desire to bowl every bit as fierce as ever and the repertoire, if anything, wider. With the support bowlers lacking experience in some cases and consistency in others, so much is going to depend on him.

It was left to Ambrose to take the final wicket of the day. He had already suffered the sight of Greenidge putting down his second chance of the day when Gower edged to second slip. In his next over a far less worthy ball, short and wide, brought the sort of rash stroke from Gower that we have come to know and dread. After 101 minutes of patient defiance, it was a great pity.



Resistance finally broken: Broad is bowled by Marshall after battling to 54 in four hours (Photograph: Hugh Routledge)

Pitch shows its placid nature

By Andrew Longmore

The Trent Bridge pitch has always had a fickle nature, so no one should have been surprised by its unusually bare appearance yesterday. Any pitch that allows 22 wickets to fall to leg-spin - albeit in 1930 when England beat Australia by 93 runs - must be suspect. Four years later, Bill Voce took eight for 66 for Nottinghamshire against the Australians. A creature of moods, the Trent Bridge pitch, then and now.

In 1981 the unknown Terry Alderman bowled Australia to a narrow victory in four days. The pitch and the groundsmen came in for their share of criticism. "It was an experiment. We had been trying out more positive wickets in county games and I tried one for the Test. I still

maintain I was right but it was very cloudy, the ball swung and Alderman had a field day," the head groundsmen, Ron Allsopp, said seven years on.

It was positive, that is true. England's loss precipitated Botham's fall and rise. The present pitch has certainly been prepared more with the West Indian fast bowlers than the TCCB's pre-season suggestions on fast, bouncy wickets, in mind. It was neither fast nor bouncy. At times, the bounce was a little uncertain; there was something there for the bowler, as Marshall, operating in his medium-fast mode, proved in the afternoon. But pace? There was none.

Gooch, for one, did not mind that. Perhaps he remembered the horrific wicket served up for the England batsmen at Sabina Park on England's last

tour when Patterson burst onto the scene. Yesterday, the same bowler steamed in and found nothing.

"The pitch is very slow, the sort of wicket where it's easy to drag the ball onto your stumps. It turned a bit, but nothing dangerous yet," Gooch said.

Allsopp will be pleased with that assessment. That was roughly what he had in mind. After 14 years as head groundsmen and 35 years at Trent Bridge, there is little he does not know or cannot do to his pitch, if he puts his mind to it. He certainly makes no excuses for the current wicket, which is not exactly out of the drawer marked "positive". "This is not like our county wickets. This is prepared for a Test match to help the batsmen," he said. Some county batsmen will smile at that.

END COLUMN

Time for sport to act together

By Emyln Jones

Sports bodies have a tendency to bolt the stable door after the horse has galloped down the road: negotiations between sport and television often illustrate this point.

Recently, however, there have been indications that sport is waking up to reality and taking the long-term view. The football authorities are doing their own thing and cricket is proposing to follow suit. How long will it be before other major sports cut the cord which has bound them to the public broadcasting authorities?

The lesson that has not been learned is that unity is strength - in financial terms and bargaining power. In my report *Sport in Space*, published by the Sports Council in 1985, I proposed that the major sports bodies should set up a "Co-operative Sports Broadcasting Unit" which would arrange the coverage of events and make them available to potential customers throughout the world, including the BBC and ITV.

At the time, it was seen as a revolutionary proposition, but football is now moving in this direction, except, of course, it is unilateral rather than collective action. When will sport learn that fragmentation weakens its case?

Football's proposed deal with British Satellite Broadcasting (BSB) has rocked the television establishment, and other major sports are now considering following the lead.

Record of acting like King Canute

What does not appear to have been thought out is how to bridge the gap between the present and the future. The television authorities have a record of acting like King Canute and football like a bull in a china shop.

Naturally, BBC and ITV want to maintain the status quo and are unwilling to keep the bed warm until their satellite rival gets under way; football cannot afford to be off the screen because of loss of ancillary benefits.

Inevitably, satellite and cable will expand and take over an increasing proportion of the audience from terrestrial broadcasting. They are in opposition but must learn to live together as have BBC and ITV. They can be deadly rivals yet act in concert.

Those of us involved in broadcasting in the Fifties remember the cut-throat rivalry between the two. It was fear of the ITV moguls that prompted the Government of the day to come to a tacit agreement about the sharing of six major events - the FA Cup final, Wimbledon, the Test matches, the Derby, the Grand National and the Boat Race. The list has not changed but the reason for its retention is surely no longer valid.

The scrapheap for bowls and darts

In practice, the Cup final is now the only shared event and it would be in the best interests of the viewer and sport if these events were available on an exclusive basis either to the BBC or ITV. Sport has never been happy with this restriction and it does not reflect the philosophy of this Government.

What of the future then for sport and television? The financial net is tightening at the BBC and a ruthless rationalization process is being applied by ITV so that football, boxing and snooker are likely to be the staple diet. The scrapheap beckons for gymnastics, bowls and darts, and can athletics be far behind?

The writing is on the wall for all but the more attractive major events. The facilities fee will become a thing of the past and, increasingly, television will consider its contribution as providing airtime and, in many cases, may even expect the promoting body to find a sponsor to cover the production costs. Such a package will become the norm rather than the exception.

For our television authorities, particularly the BBC, the scene is rapidly changing. It is accused of complacency, or worse, even arrogance, about its coverage. Sadly, the halcyon days of BBC sports coverage may well be in the past. Even more sadly, ITV's top brass has never had a sufficiently consistent policy to allow its often talented production staff to scale even those heights.

Emyln Jones is former chairman of the Sports Council

SCOREBOARD FROM TRENT BRIDGE

ENGLAND				
First Innings				
G A Gooch b Marshall	73	3	174	131
B C Broad b Marshall	54	3	240	167
M W Gooch c Logie b Marshall	5	1	30	15
D I Gower c Dujon b Ambrose	18	1	99	56
A J Lamb bow b Marshall	39	3	135	132
D R Pringle not out	39	3	135	132
T P R Downton not out	9	1	70	39
Extras (lb 6, nb 11, w 3)	22			
Total (5 wickets, 88 overs)	220			

J E Embury, P A J DeFreitas, P W Jarvis and G D Riley to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-125, 2-141, 3-161, 4-161, 5-186.

BOWLING: Marshall 24-4-54-4 (nb 2, w 1); Patterson 18-2-49-0 (nb 7, w 2); Ambrose 18-6-48-1 (nb 1); Walsh 20-4-38-0 (nb 4); Hooper 9-1-20-0; Richards 7-0-2-0.

WEST INDIES

C G Greenidge, D L Haynes, R B Richardson, I V A Richards, A L Logie, C L Hooper, T P J Dujon, M D Marshall, C E L Ambrose, C A Walsh, S P Patterson.

Umpires: H D Bird and J E Birkenshaw.

Lendl's rhythm destroyed by Svensson

From Rex Bellamy Tennis Correspondent Paris

One of the most startling results in the recent history of the French championships occurred in a quarter-final yesterday. The unseeded Jonas Svensson, of Sweden, beat the holder, Ivan Lendl, by 7-6, 7-5, 6-2. In the past four years Lendl has been champion three times and runner-up once.

The rock on which other clay-court experts have consistently founded was gradually eroded by the capricious tides Svensson commanded. In the first set Lendl led 3-1, was serving at 5-4 and 30-15, and had a 3-2 lead in the tie-break. In the second set Lendl had two set points when Svensson was serving at 4-5 and 15-40.

During this critical phase Lendl first became aware, when stretched on the forehand, that he had strained a chest muscle near his racket arm. Soon, he was facing the truth: "I knew I was gone but was hoping for a miracle or

something. It was a long shot." It was indeed. Once Svensson had broken back for five-all in the first set, he perplexed Lendl - who thrives on regular patterns and rhythms - by a disciplined, highly skilled application of the strategy recommended by his coach.

"The game plan was to confuse him," Svensson said. "To hit slow balls to make him feel safe - and then play a little faster, coming in after hitting harder or playing a drop shot. He's good at every-

thing, so I had to take risks. He didn't know what was going on. But I don't think anybody expected this, certainly not me. Maybe three sets for him.

"I can't beat clay-courtiers at their own game, staying back," Svensson added. "I have to play my own way. It doesn't matter if I get passed. I thought he would change his game, put on more pressure. But he didn't. He let me play my game."

Lendl commented that Svensson played very well, hit

the ball early and, taking risks, played some "strange" shots, but seldom missed. As for the injury, Lendl had the good humour to suggest: "This is no good for golf. It hurts when you pick up the ball from the cup, after your tee shot..."

The match was played in a ludicrously noisy environment. The CRS (riot police) stood at the ready in the adjacent Avenue de la Porte d'Auteuil - the scene of a demonstration in support of some industrial dispute. There were megaphones, a variety of

horns, shouted slogans, and lots of amplified disco music. "What was it?" Svensson asked, "a demonstration against me?"

Svensson's next opponent will be the dashing Frenchman, Henri Leconte, who beat Andrei Chesnokov 6-3, 6-2, 7-6. Leconte finished the match with a typically flamboyant shot: a drop volley.

Leconte always beats Chesnokov, largely because (like Lendl) Chesnokov likes to play to set patterns. There is no pattern to Leconte's tennis. He is an adventurer, a D'Artagnan, a swordsman with fast hands and a wrist of steel. And Leconte is not always sure what his heart will tell him to do next.

RESULTS: Men's singles: Quarter-finals: J Svensson (Swe) b I Lendl (CZ), 7-6, 7-5, 6-2; H Leconte (F) b A Chesnokov (USSR), 6-3, 6-2, 7-6; Men's doubles: Sassi-Ruffo (ITA) b J Dujon (WI) and E Sanchez (Sp), 6-3, 6-2; J Fitzgerald (Aus) and A Jarry (Swe) b W Krieger (Aus) and M Woodhouse (Aus), 6-2, 6-2; Women's singles: S Gradi (WGB) b G Sabatini (Arg), 6-3, 7-5; Mixed doubles: Cauter-Francis, L, McNeil (US) and J Leeson (New) b C Jolesani (Swe) and J Pugh (US), 6-3, 6-3; M Gohmert and T Nease (New) b B Nagelsen (US) and G Forget (Fr), 2-6, 6-2, 6-3; B Schutte and M Scheraga (Neth) b P Barr and E Norris (US), 6-2, 6-4; M Navratilova (US) and E Sanchez (Sp) b M Paz and H de la Paez (Arg), 2-6, 6-2, 6-2.

Graf upholds her seniority

The men's singles semi-finals of the French championships are surprising: Svensson v Leconte and Wilander v Agassi (with the accent on the "Ag"). More predictably, Steffi Graf reached the women's final with a 6-3, 7-6 win over Gabriela Sabatini (Rex Bellamy writes).

Graf, aged 18 years and 11 months, was the oldest player in these "junior" semi-finals. She holds the French and

Australian titles. Yesterday she served better, hit far more winners (notably on the forehand or from the forecourt), hit harder and deeper, and had a physical advantage in her bounding athleticism.

Graf's footwork was so good that she usually ran or slid into position - the timing of a slide is very important on clay - with a moment or so to spare for perfectly balanced stroke preparation.

Sabatini's backhand was less confident and testing than usual. She did not attack as often as she needed to. Consequently, her chances rested on keeping the ball in play and trying to lure Graf into error. They had some exciting rallies and Graf displayed a familiar tendency to pause on the brink of success. In the tie-break she was suddenly at ease again and, as she was the better player, that was that.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Thelwall shows way

Jane Thelwall and King's Jester led at half-way stage in the dressage phase at the Carphone Group's Bramham International three-day event at Weatherby yesterday.

They were closely followed by Jimima Johnson and Timber Rua who is on form this year, and Diana Clapham with Jimmy Cricket in equal third place with Mary Thomson, these four riders separated by only three points.

RESULTS: Bramham CCI 1, King's Jester (Mrs J Thelwall), J Thelwall, 40.8; 2, Timber Rua (Mrs J Johnson), J Johnson, 42.8; 3, Jimmy Cricket (Colonel H Selby), D Clapham, 48.0; 4, King Clapham (The Carphone Group), M Thomson, 48.8. Young Riders National Championships, End of Dressage: Highland Flier, P Lyle, 45.4; 2, Secret Mission, S Benson, 54.3; 3, Finneas Finn, D Hughes, 54.8.

George Wright

George Wright, one of Gloucestershire's leading post-war rugby administrators, has died at his Bristol home, aged 76. He Wright had been secretary of the Gloucestershire Rugby Union for 21 years and was still in office when he died.

Series off

Eugene (Reuter) - Tom Teller, Carl Lewis's trainer, said yesterday he did not expect a proposed \$1 million, three-race match series between the American, Lewis, and the 100 metre world record holder, Ben Johnson, of Canada, would take place, as Johnson has picked up a hamstring injury.

McEnroe plan

John McEnroe will complete his build-up for Wimbledon by taking part in the Wirral international, from June 13 to 18, a revamped grass-court tournament last played in 1972, and then known as the Hoylake Classic.

Lead needed

The Rugby Football Union is being urged to provide its clubs with guidelines on the relative importance of the county championship, possibly the game's most controversial competition. The Senior Clubs Association is calling on the RFU to give a "positive lead" and no longer leave players and clubs to decide its status.

May's best

Ian Woosnam is the Ritz Club golfer of the month for May after winning the PGA championship at Wentworth over the Bank holiday weekend.

Record chance

Clinton McKenzie will take another step towards winning the British light-welterweight title a record third time later this month. The former European champion, aged 32, has been lined up to meet Peterborough's Lennie Gloster at the Fairfield Halls, Croydon, on June 16.



Woosnam: award winner



With effect from the close of business on Friday 3rd June 1988 and until further notice, TSB Base Rate is increased by 0.5% from 7.50% p.a. to 8.00% p.a.

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